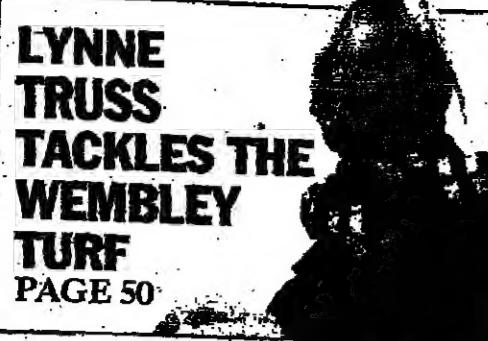


# THE TIMES

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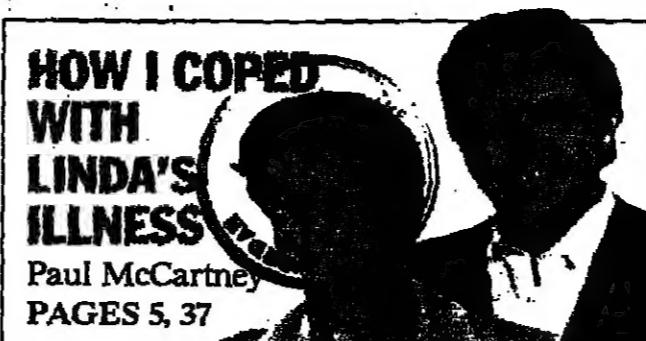
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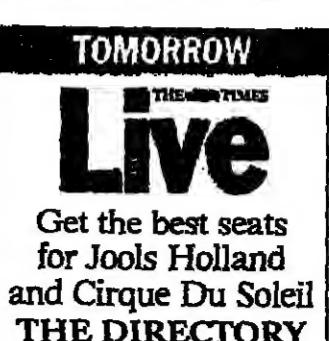
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THE DIRECTORY

Battle turns to bitterness and abuse

## Tories attack 'bare-faced lies by Blair'

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR was accused of telling "bare-faced despicable lies" yesterday as the general election campaign degenerated to a level of bitterness and abuse rarely seen in British politics.

Stung by claims by the Labour leader that the Tories intended to abolish the state pension, the Prime Minister last night led a barrage of attacks against Mr Blair. Mr Major said that the Labour leadership were "plain liars" and at Conservative headquarters Brian Mawhinney, the Tory chairman, and Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, accused Mr Blair directly eight times of lying over pensions and alleging the Tories would put VAT on food.

Mr Dorrell said of Mr Blair: "The tougher the questioning, the more he panics. The more he panics the more he lies — telling bare-faced despicable lies."

With the latest poll last night showing Labour's lead steady at 16 per cent the party's leadership dismissed the assault on Mr Blair as the act of "desperate people resorting to desperate measures". They claim their attack had "struck a massive nerve" and decided last night to change their

campaign plans for today to keep the spotlight on pensions.

The Tory attacks were designed partly to damage Mr Blair's integrity on the night when Labour's election broadcast showed him chatting at home with his children and talking about his beliefs. Mr Dorrell said: "Today he peddled lies about our proposals for the state pension with the sole intent of whipping up fears among pensioners."

There was more. "Once again this morning we saw how he panicked when faced with serious questions. A rabbit caught in the headlights looks positively relaxed when compared with Mr Blair answering a question on economics."

Scarcely less severe was Dr Mawhinney. He said that in statement after statement Mr Blair had been telling lies

about state pensions, the NHS and Tory plans to put VAT on food in a "cynical pre-programmed attempt" to divert attention from Labour's weaknesses on Europe and the economy.

It was hard, he said, "not to hold in a degree of contempt someone who deliberately sets out to smear and to scare the elderly people of this country".

If the lie claims had been made in the Commons the Speaker would have forced ministers to withdraw them. Such attacks are deemed "unparliamentary language".

It was an unexpected turn of events on a day when the Tories had begun their final week of campaigning focusing on the economy and the alleged £12 billion black hole in the plans by Labour, which in turn had set out to spell out to voters the choice facing them next week.

John Prescott, the Deputy Leader, said: "They are resorting to abuse because they know they are losing the argument. Tony Blair is talking about the future of the country while the Tories have nothing left to say and nothing left to offer other than personalised attacks."

Labour bases its claim about the threat to pension on the Tory manifesto which, it says, paves the way for the full privatisation of the state pension. When outlining the new Basic Pension Plus scheme in March ministers insisted that the basic pension would be protected. But Labour says that if pension funds were to go bankrupt there was no guarantee of where the money would come from.

The Tories have admitted that their scheme will cost £160 million in the first year, accumulating each year to a maximum of £7 billion by 2040, but saving £40 billion in the long term.

It was Mr Blair's launch of Labour's final week of campaigning that so infuriated the Tories. He was flanked on one side by a list of Labour pledges. On the other side, there was a list of "threats" posed by the Conservatives.

"There is something inherently improbable about my having been a radical leader of the Labour Party and then



## TIMES

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FRIDAY APRIL 25 1997



Tony Blair at home in Islington yesterday. He pledged "a fresh start in politics"

## Labour 'will stay radical'

By PETER RIDDELL

TONY BLAIR promises this morning in an interview with *The Times* that he will be as radical as Prime Minister as he has been in changing the Labour Party.

Talking in the drawing room of his Islington home, a relaxed Mr Blair says he has discovered "a real sense of confidence" as the campaign has progressed. But he is cautious about specifics and putting at risk the election victory which he and his advisers increasingly expect.

However, Mr Blair seeks to give the impression that, despite the caution of the party's manifesto and election campaign, a Labour government would over time make a big difference in education, the health service and welfare.

"There is something inherently improbable about my having been a radical leader of the Labour Party and then

being a cautious Prime Minister. I wouldn't be, I'd be a radical Prime Minister, but it would be a different kind of radicalism."

But he argues that radicalism should not be defined by how much government spends or raises taxes, but rather by raising standards in schools and the like.

He says Labour has drawn up detailed preparations for forming a government. He hinted at the possibility of some novel appointments in government and in Whitehall:

"I believe in making the broadest use of the talents we have available." He promises to offer "a fresh start" which will not be trivial.

Mr Blair goes out of his way to praise John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, who has had "a fantastic campaign" and has done "wonderfully". He is in "no doubt" that Mr Prescott would be "a key

player in the Labour Government".

Throughout the interview, he emphasises how a Labour administration would make a difference through step-by-step, rather than dramatic, changes — in the Queen's Speech, in the midsummer "welfare to work" Budget and at the Amsterdam Euro summit.

"I'm not myself a great believer in a dazzling first 100 days which then disappears up in smoke. People don't want a revolution, they want a fresh start."

He said people wanted "tangible proof that the party that calls itself new Labour is genuinely new Labour". This means not trying to reverse everything that has happened over the past 18 years but in putting right the things that were wrong.

Interview, page 9

## Major rejects Saatchi advertising blitz

By ANDREW PIERCE AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

JOHN MAJOR has overruled plans by Lord Saatchi for a big advertising campaign in the last week before the election because the Conservative's finances have already been stretched to the limit.

In a sign of deepening tension at Central Office, it was disclosed last night that the Prime Minister had rejected a personal plea from the advertising mastermind, Lord Saatchi, to Mr Major on his flight back from Aberdeen on Wednesday evening.

But the Prime Minister, who has taken a close interest in the advertising campaign,

rejected Lord Saatchi's proposal for a blitz in national newspapers, partly because he feared that it could be interpreted as a sign of panic. The party has spent about £11 million in the past 18 months. Conservative Party sources indicated that the envisaged campaign could have cost more than £1 million.

A friend of the Prime Minister said last night: "He is determined not to leave the party's finances in a mess at the end of the election campaign. Budget figures were agreed. We are going to stick to them."

## Top charities pay heads £100,000

Directors of 14 charities are paid more than £100,000 a year and the average salary of chief executives in the top 100 voluntary organisations is £75,000, according to a survey of the nation's 3,000 main good causes. The charities have an annual turnover of £13 million. Page 6

## Huge Roman villa found

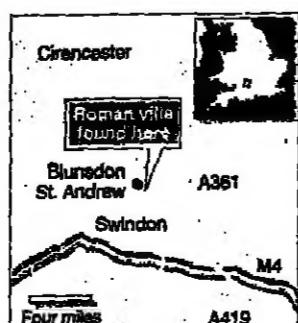
By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

WHAT may be the largest late Roman villa in Britain has been discovered on a building site four miles north of Swindon.

Developers of a housing estate at Groundwell Ridge, near Blunsdon St Andrew, discovered an impressive wall about 3ft high when driving a road through the site. They immediately stopped work and, as required by Department of the Environment guidelines, provided access for archaeologists. Investigations have been organised by Bryn Walters of the Association for Roman Archaeology.

No actual archaeological digging has yet been undertaken, but a team from the archaeometry division of English Heritage has used geophysical surveying methods to estimate the size of the building. The team's preliminary results suggest that it lay within an enclosure up to 150 yards long and that it was not the only building on the site.

Indications are that it is a



very large villa or a temple dating from the last century of Roman occupation. From its size, it could prove one of the most important ever found. Mr Walters said yesterday that he was not yet ready to comment. "It's too early to say anything," he said.

Swindon is proving a productive area for Roman remains. Last month a team of archaeologists reported the discovery of a Mediterranean-style villa south of the town. The site, in the valley of the Og, has produced a large double-handled jar, probably

## Yellow line snares its inventor 50 years on

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

THERE was sweet revenge for Britain's motorists yesterday when George Musgrave fell victim to his own invention — the yellow line.

Mr Musgrave, who came up with the idea 50 years ago this month, was fined £20 for parking on a yellow line.

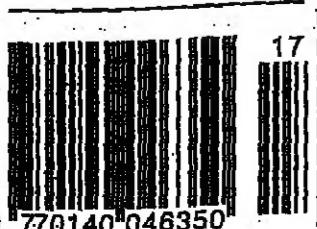
He saw the funny side as he explained how he had fallen foul of his detested invention. "The law is the law and I broke it," he said at his home in Eastbourne. "I needed to carry out an errand for my wife, who is disabled, and put the car on a single yellow line, which I thought meant I could stop for unloading. I was in the shop just five minutes and when I got back, the warden was walking off up the street. I tried to appeal but it was too late."

Mr Musgrave, 81, a former missionary, first suggested yellow lines while he was working in Greenwich in 1947. The local council ran a competition to find ways of improving road safety and he entered a selection of ideas, from putting railings outside school gates to preventing parking 20 yards either side of a zebra crossing — measures which are still in use today.

Painting lines along the pavement or road to stop cars from parking came to him when he was almost knocked down crossing the road after emerging from between parked cars. The council gave him a prize of £2 for the idea.

There were years of debate before yellow lines were accepted by the Government and the motoring establishment. They were first tried in London and in 1956 the streets of Slough turned to gold as it became the centre for experimentation. Even in 1968, the Government was still implementing legislation trying to decide where yellow lines should be used and what, precisely, they should mean.

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Human rights appeal by bereaved husbands who want same benefits as women

## Widowers' claim for cash equality 'may cost £490m'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO widowers have lodged claims against the Government after being denied payments and allowances available only to bereaved women. The Treasury says that giving equal rights to bereaved men could cost £490 million a year.

The Child Poverty Action Group, which is helping to support one of the cases to the European Court of Human Rights, says that virtually every other nation in western Europe treats widowers and widows equally. In Britain, men are still deemed to be the breadwinners.

The two men both gave up full-time work because their wives had cancer. Kevin Willis, 40, from Bristol, has launched proceedings after discovering that he is not eligible for some state benefits to help raise his two children. Christopher Crossland, 38, from Wiltshire, who has three children, has lodged a claim over the refusal of the Inland Revenue to award him bereavement allowance.

An estimated 20,000 to 40,000 widowed fathers who could benefit from the various allowances if the claims succeed. The Government says

that "equalising" all widows' benefits could also include the widow's pension.

Mr Willis's wife Marlene had been the family's main breadwinner as a local government official before her illness. Her husband, who had been repeatedly made redundant, finally had to give up his job as a field service engineer to nurse her, and then to look after their children, aged 6 and 8. Last November, he put in claims for money equal to a lump sum "widow's payment" worth £1,000, and the widowed mother's allowance. He was turned down, but receives child benefit.

His case is backed by the Child Poverty Action Group and the Campaign for Widowed Fathers' Benefits. The European Convention on Human Rights guarantees the right to family life.

"The children suffered a grievous loss when they lost their mother," said Mr Willis. "It seems very unfair that they should suffer financially as well just because they have lost their mother and not their father."

The widowed mother's allowance is a benefit for wid-

owed mothers who have not remarried, is currently worth £62.45 a week, with an extra £9.90 a week for the eldest child and £11.20 a week for other children. This brings the total sum Mr Willis says he is denied to £83.55 a week, in addition to the £1,000 lump sum. He is using up his savings to keep the family solvent, and cannot have income support because he has savings.

Mr Crossland's claim has

the backing of Liberty. Mr

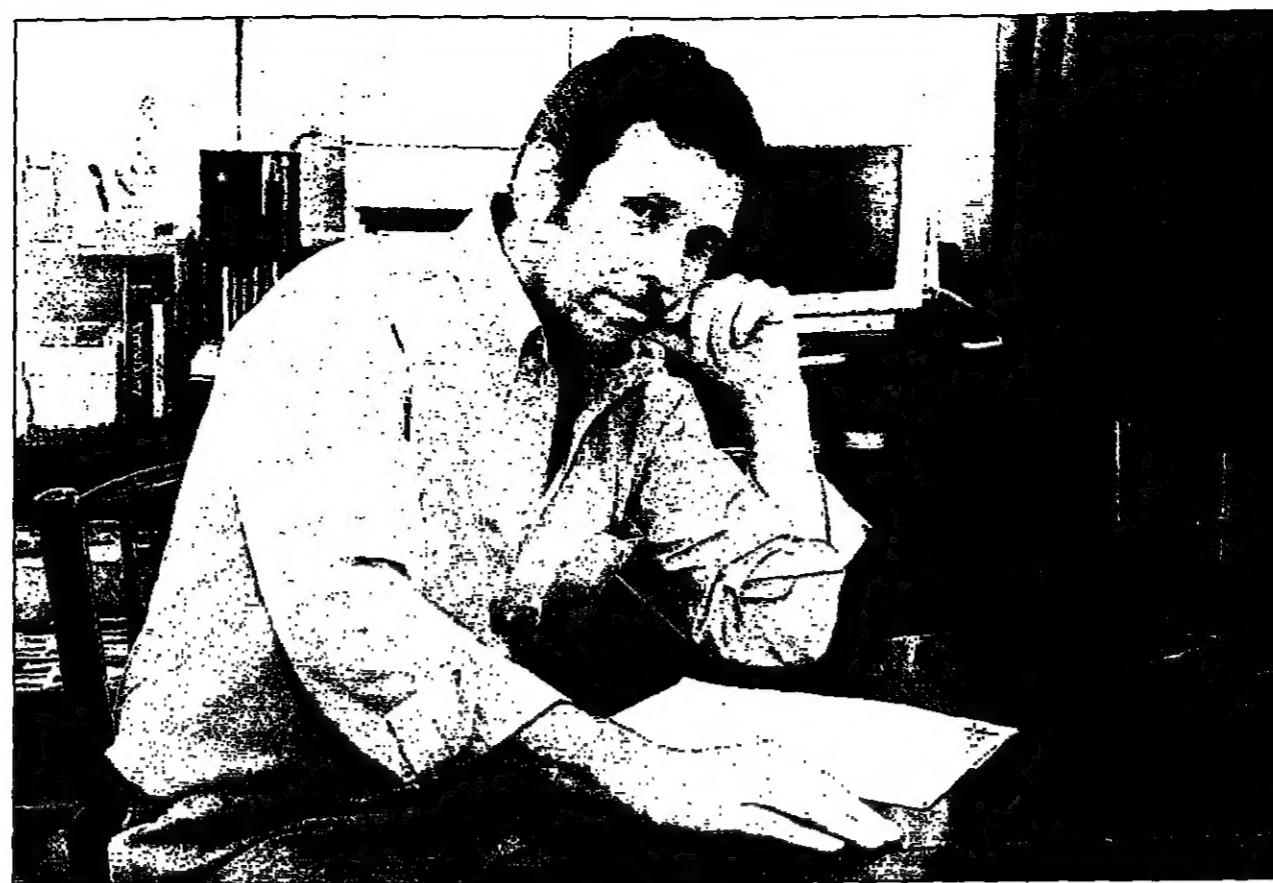
Crossland, 38, gave up his full-time job as director of one of the Unipart companies in 1995

to look after his children when his wife, Alexandra, died of cancer. The bereavement al-

lowance for the tax year 1996/97 was £1,790. He was told the allowance was available only to widows "because generally speaking, the financial problems are greater for a woman than a man. This is because the husband is usually the main breadwinner so the loss of his income has greater effect."

Mr Crossland works part-

time when his children — Emma, 13, Peter, 10, and Alice, 6 — are at school. He said: "I find this rule deeply offensive



Kevin Willis: "It seems unfair that children should suffer because they lose their mother not their father"

to woman, because it says their economic contribution is worthless. It's a great injustice to the memory of my wife. The present policy places a higher value on the life of a man, and in reality says that in the UK a woman's life is worthless."

Realistically, it could take five years for the claims to be decided. Labour have pledged to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law, which would enable British courts

here to look at such claims. The Child Poverty Action Group says virtually every European country provides such benefits equally to widowers and widows. Only Britain, Switzerland and the Czech Republic do not.

CPAG's legal officer David Thomas said: "Based on recent cases from the Human Rights court, we believe we have a very strong case. However, rather than force Kevin to take his case all the

way to Strasbourg, we would like to see whoever is in power after the election change the rules to reflect the reality of modern life."

The CPAG says that women now make up 45 per cent of the UK workforce, and that married women bring in nearly a quarter of households. Even if Treasury estimates of the cost of equalisation are accurate, the action group argues that the figures cannot justify the dis-

crimination. It points out that other state benefits exist for widowers in financial need, such as income support and family credit, which cannot justify the discrimination between the sexes. The Campaign for Widowed Fathers' Benefits estimates that if the law was changed, about 20,000 men would be entitled to claim, with many more eligible for the lump sum payment and the separate widow's pension.

Couples are exempt for the three-month ruling only if a judge grants them a special dispensation. Eithne Fitzgerald, a junior minister, said considerable steps had been taken to inform the public of the changes. "The couples walked into the situation with their eyes open," she said.

### Police on guard against hooligans

A nationwide police operation is under way to stop football hooligans rampaging across Europe when England competes in World Cup and friendly matches this summer. Officers fear hooligans will strike in Germany, Poland and France when England plays four matches in 11 days. A source said hooligans could be planning a series of battles when England play Poland in Katowice on May 31. From June 3 England take part in a four-nation competition in France against France, Italy and Brazil.

### Violent prisoner sues for assault

A high-risk prisoner who is serving four life sentences is suing the Home Office for damages after complaining of rough treatment by warders. Anthony Steele, 31, who has tried to murder two inmates and assaulted prison officers, said that he had been left "hurting all over. I accept that I have been very, very violent, but that doesn't give them the right to do what they did to me," he told the Mayor and City of London County Court. The case continues.

### School raffles car for teacher

A school is to raffle a car so it can replace a teacher lost because of budget cuts. Governors at Kirkburton Church of England first school, near Huddersfield in west Yorkshire, hope to raise £20,000 and restore the staff to four for the 105 pupils. The cut imposed last year by Kirklees council meant that Kirklees' four classes of 25 pupils were reduced three of 35. Joyce Worsfold, the headmistress, said: "There is no point in blaming the Government, because that does not help the children."

### IRA fugitive held after 14 years

A convicted IRA bomber who escaped from the Maze prison 14 years ago was arrested yesterday at his home in the Irish Republic, where he had been living in full view of the law. Dermot Joseph McNally, one of Britain's most wanted terrorists, was arrested in Sligo by the Irish police following a request from the Royal Ulster Constabulary, who wish to extradite him. McNally had been serving three life sentences for bombing in Northern Ireland when he escaped with 37 other prisoners during a mass breakout.

never have access to. "The royal collection began with Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, the second son of Queen Victoria. When financially embarrassed, he sold it to his elder brother the Prince of Wales, the future Edward VII. Edward added examples from all the colonies, dependent territories and later dominions which fell under his aegis. The collecting was continued by George V and filled 325 red albums when it was passed on to the Queen's father, George VI, also a keen philatelist."

Leading article, page 23

## Maker of new contraceptive admits to 450 pregnancies

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE makers of a new contraceptive device hailed as the biggest breakthrough in family planning since the 1960s admitted last night that at least 450 women have become pregnant while using it.

The Persona, which has the backing of the Catholic Church, has been bought by more than 100,000 women since going on sale at Boots chemists last October.

The device works by measuring hormone levels in

urine to establish when a woman is at her most fertile. It includes a monitor, which displays a green light when it is safe to have sex and a red one when the user is fertile. Unipath, the manufacturers, told BBC1's *Watchdog* programme, that it knew of at least 450 pregnancies and that the company has recently reduced its claimed success rate for the product from 95 to 94 per cent. Persona was marketed as an alternative to the condom — but family planning statistic

gives condoms a 98 per cent success rate. Dr Judy Murty of the Marie Stopes Centre in Leeds said: "Persona is best for people in a stable relationship who want to plan families. If you didn't want to get pregnant and if you would choose to have an abortion if you had an unwanted pregnancy, I don't think Persona is the thing to use."

Leendert Staal, chairman of Unipath, last night defended the device. "No method of contraception is 100 per cent reliable," he said.

## Woolf urges health dispute reforms

By IAN MURRAY  
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

ENOUGH money to run a large health service trust is being spent annually on legal costs to deal with negligence claims from patients, Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, said last night.

Calling for fresh ways to settle claims for compensation, he said the present system for resolving disputes was not designed to meet the needs of health carers and their patients but the interests of the legal profession.

Lord Woolf, who last year completed a review of ways to streamline litigation, said that when his survey ended there were 20,000 claims outstanding against the NHS, some of them for more than £1 million. Over 90 per cent of the

litigants were on legal aid, so in the vast majority of cases the public purse was paying for both sides.

The situation of those who did not qualify for legal aid was also difficult. Equally, health carers were trapped in a nightmare situation, with hurtful allegations being made against them even though their only aim had been to help the patient. Litigation made it impossible for them to talk to the patient about what happened. "The concern is that if there is an apology or if even an explanation is given, this could be used in evidence against them or prejudices their position with the medical defence bodies."

Lord Woolf, giving the spring lecture to the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, said that he was keen to see ways of

keeping cases out of court. There needed to be more use of the health service ombudsman and mechanisms to find out from the start what the patient wanted.

"During the course of my inquiry I was told by litigants that all they were seeking was an explanation or apology, which was never forthcoming. All too often... they are forced into litigation because of the lack of communication by those representing the medical profession."

Lord Woolf said the whole process should be streamlined, with the patient notifying the defendant of the grounds of his claim at least three months before a legal action starts. That would make it possible for the health authority to investigate the claim and see whether it was worth contesting. Openness on all sides was essential.

## Mother's age is more of a problem as child grows up

### MEDICAL BRIEFING

THIRTY years ago, doctors thought that an ageing woman's fertility was governed by the state of her uterus, as well as her ovaries.

It was assumed that beyond a certain age her uterus was finished. It was present but old and shrivelled; it would be as incapable of action in the labour ward as an aged Chelsea Pensioner would be at the front.

This earlier generation of gynaecologists have been proved wrong. The uterus springs to life when treated with the appropriate hormones — oestrogens only in the first half of the month with progestogens in the second — analogues of those which coursed through her body in

her youth. The correct balance of hormones given at the right time and in the right strength, hormones such as those also used in HRT, can now revitalise the uterus and its blood supply so that it is capable of maintaining a 40-week pregnancy even if the woman is in her seventies.

Conversely, the quality of a woman's eggs, the ova, deteriorate even though she may still be ovulating regularly. Fertility in a woman in her

mid to late thirties begins to fail not because of her uterus, but because the ova are past their best. There is as yet no way of improving the quality of ova.

When Sam Abdalla, a consultant at the fertility clinic at the Lister Hospital, London, was told that a 65-year-old American woman had had a baby, he replied: "Oh my God. This is no advance, no breakthrough, for there is no technical difference between preparing a woman's uterus for an embryo whether she is 40, 50, 60, 70 or even presumably 80."

"As obstetricians we do not only have a duty, but also a legal responsibility, to look after the child's interests. Doctors have to consider what it would be like for a child still in its early teens to have to look after a mother who might well already be physically or mentally disabled. There is also of course a distinct possibility that they might have been orphaned by age."

If the California couple are prosperous, they stand a chance of becoming even richer. Lucrative offers were last night being touted by media organisations keen to have their exclusive story. For the moment, it seemed, the couple are happy to settle for the bounty of parenthood and the joys of the soiled nappy.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

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# £175,000 for fashion designer after gas fire leak destroyed career



By FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A FASHION designer who was forced to give up his career after suffering carbon monoxide poisoning from his council flat gas fire over several years has received £175,000 damages.

Allan McCrae, 46, a council tenant with the London Borough of Camden, discovered in 1993 that his gas fire was defective after experiencing loss of memory and lack of concentration. He lodged a claim for compensation in which his lawyers said the fire had never been

serviced or inspected and that the north London council, as landlord, had failed in its contractual and statutory duty to repair and take reasonable care to see the tenant was safe from personal injury caused by defects on the premises.

Mr McCrae's medical experts concluded that he had been exposed to toxic fumes causing moderate brain damage that led to loss of concentration and memory and loss of organisational ability, which reduced his capacity to work. Earlier this month the council offered to settle his claim for £175,000 and the trial was ad-

judged until yesterday to allow time for its approval by the relevant council committee.

Mr McCrae's solicitor, Gisele Bakkenist from Leigh Day, said: "I am delighted that he has at least obtained justice. There is little doubt in my mind and that of our experts that Mr McCrae would have been awarded substantial damages by the trial judge."

She said that all landlords, whether private or public authorities, now had to ensure the safety of gas installations by conducting annual safety checks and maintenance.

"I hope this case will be a warning that if the safety of tenants from this poisonous gas is not ensured, landlords will be held accountable."

Mr McCrae had a successful career in fashion design and had worked for well-known boutiques and designers, including the House of Norman Hartnell, and had set up his own studio. As his health deteriorated he turned to teaching design but that also became too difficult for him.

Stephanie Trotter, president of CO Gas Safety, a registered charity, said: "Carbon monoxide is a hidden poison. We counted from press cuttings 65 deaths and 403 near misses from September 1995 to August 1996. We are delighted with this result and hope others will take courage to fight their cases because this will encourage the authorities to improve standards."

The Royal College of Nursing has won a record £380,000 in damages for a 35-year-old nurse who will never be able to work again after injuring her back.

The nurse, who does not want her identity disclosed, fractured her spine in 1990 in a work accident caused by a failure to maintain safe premises. She is in constant pain,

unable to work for more than 10 minutes at a time or drive for half an hour. Her National Health Service employer has agreed to pay £380,000 in an out-of-court settlement, the highest sum the college has won for a back-injured nurse.

Patrick Blundy, legal adviser to the college, said: "No amount of money can compensate this nurse for the fact that she is now unable to practise her chosen profession. There is a clear message here for employers: take care of your staff and ensure that your premises are safe to work in or you will pay the price."

'I called them in for the match,' says mother. 'They moved and the ground disappeared'

## Soccer saves children as garden falls into crater

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO children escaped death by minutes when a 100ft-deep hole opened up in the garden of their home.

Ten-year-old Charlotte Britton and her brother Charles, eight, had just cleared away their buckets and spades from a sandpit when the ground slipped into a water-filled hole.

As their mother Jane, 31, called them into the semi-detached house in Ripon, North Yorkshire, to watch Manchester United play Borussia Dortmund in the

European Cup on Wednesday night, the garden fell away from under them. "I went out to call them in and the ground started to move under me," she said. "I just shouted to the children. They moved and the ground just disappeared."

"There was a roar and a hole 70ft across and 100ft deep appeared just yards in front of us. If I had not been there to get my children they would have been dead now. Thankfully Charlie is a Manchester United fan and he had told me to call him when the match started."

A few hours later the family's double garage fell into the hole. "I called the emergency services and we were given just two minutes to find some clothes and get out of the house," Mrs Britton said. Other families in the street were also told to move out.

"I have been told it is unsafe and I can't go back in," she said. "The experts that have been here say the whole house is likely to collapse."

John Kirkman, Harrogate District Council's chief building control officer, said: "People have been instructed



The remains of the garage hanging over the hole that suddenly opened up in the front garden of Jane Britton's home in North Yorkshire

to move out of their homes in the interests of their own safety. We are monitoring the situation and until insurance engineers and independent engineers can assess the level of danger they cannot move back in."

The collapse is thought to have been caused by a geological fault in the area, possibly

caused by mining for gypsum. Mrs Britton said that holes had appeared in the garden before and that she was in dispute with insurers over responsibility for the damage. The matter was due to go before the High Court in four weeks.

Now Mrs Britton and her partner, Eddie Newcombe, a

butcher, fear they will not be able to move back in. "I don't even know if the house will still be here when the case starts. I have always been afraid that something like this might happen. When I am in the house, every little sound sets me on edge and I start fearing the worst."

North Yorkshire Police said:

Ripon. Within weeks, part of the land in front of the house had collapsed, leaving a hole 20ft deep and 10ft wide.

Since that first collapse, the ground has opened five more times and the hole has been filled with hardcore. Insurers have refused to pay for damage to the house, claiming it to be a natural disaster.

## Dartmoor woman is found murdered

By A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN was found murdered at her thatched cottage on Dartmoor yesterday.

Police did not immediately confirm her identity, but she is believed to be Susan Faux, 47, who lived at Mexworthy with her husband, William, a builder, and grown-up daughter, Carrie. The woman, who had head injuries, was found by her daughter at the cottage, called Thimble Hall.

Police, who set up an incident room at Newton Abbot, made house-to-house inquiries in the village, which is four miles from Dartmoor prison. A police helicopter was called to the scene. The murder inquiry is being led by the deputy head of Devon and Cornwall CID, Detective Superintendent John Smith.

Neighbours said they had heard and seen nothing suspicious and did not realise there was anything wrong until police flooded into the village.

One friend of the family, who asked not to be named, said: "We do not know what is going on. All we have seen is a lot of blue flashing lights."

"It is a lovely house on the edge of the village but its name gives a slightly grand impression. It is not like a baronial hall or a stately home but it is a very nice large thatched cottage. It would be a real shock for everyone who knows her if anything has happened to Susan."

## Neighbours grab driver who killed girl on pavement

By RICHARD DUCE

WITNESSES to the death of a nine-year-old girl "arrested" the driver of a stolen car after it hit the child as she played on the pavement.

They said the 16-year-old youth staggered from the car clutching a can of cider after the Vauxhall Nova knocked down and killed Teleri West and seriously injured Sean Rogers, 14, her friend and neighbour, outside their homes in the Cardiff suburb of Merton.

The girl's mother, Helen West, 32, is four months pregnant. Christopher Lundergan, 26, Teleri's stepfather, said yesterday: "She used to play on the pavement in front of the house all the time. Her mother and I heard a loud bang at about nine o'clock last night and ran out. We saw Teleri lying face down in the

else. We have told Teleri's class as tenderly as possible and a few of her close friends are very upset. She was a lovely, happy girl who had a lot of good friends in the school."

Sean Rogers was said last night said to be a satisfactory condition at Cardiff Royal Infirmary with leg and hip injuries.

Superintendent Mike Pent, head of South Wales Police traffic division, said: "This is a dreadful tragedy and we would like to express our sympathy to the parents." The car had been stolen from Cardiff city centre earlier in the day. The driver had later failed a breath test.

Last night, a 16-year-old was being held for questioning about Teleri's death.



Teleri West was playing when the car hit her

## Inquest told blaze hero 'got a buzz' out of fires

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A MAN who was hailed a hero for saving his four children from a blaze in which his wife died was described at an inquest yesterday as a compulsive liar obsessed by fire.

Patrick Holt, 40, had wept as he denied that he deliberately started the fire that killed his wife, Susan, 37. He was accused by a lawyer acting for Derbyshire police of being an attention-seeker who got a "buzz" out of starting fires.

His brother and sister said Mr Holt was a compulsive liar who wanted to "play the hero" by saving his family.

John Pollard, the Coroner, sitting in Stockport, recorded an open verdict. He said: "It beggars belief that this was anything other than a deliberate fire."

At one stage yesterday, he told Mr Holt to spend a 45-minute adjournment thinking carefully about the truth. "You have a lot of problems," he said. "You would not want to add perjury to those problems."

The fire last October was the third in eight months at the Holt's home in Glossop, Derbyshire. Mrs Holt's sisters said that three months before her death she had asked the council to rehouse her because she feared that her husband was going to set the house alight. Jacqueline King, Mr Holt's first wife, described how she escaped a fire in their home 20 years ago.

## Enigmatic variation sounds out Elgar

By TIM JONES

MUSIC-LOVERS attending this year's Malvern Elgar Festival will be able to enjoy the chamber music of Schubert, Beethoven and Brahms — but not the larger-scale works of the composer after whom it is named.

Malvern's Winter Gardens theatre and hall complex is being renovated, so the festival is to be held in the much smaller Priory church. The artistic director, William Boughton, said: "We are not doing any Elgar because artistically the music doesn't sit well in the Priory and we are forced to use 30 or 48-piece

orchestras. Elgar really needs 100 to 80 pieces to do him justice."

"Acoustically, it would be a dog's dinner. He is far too great a composer and we are not willing to reduce him to tokenism." Instead they would be using the festival to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Schubert and the 100th anniversary of the death of Brahms.

Although Elgar's works will not feature in the festival, which begins in May, his name will appear on promotional material. Mr Boughton explained: "We want to create an identity for the festival and it would be meaningless dropping the name for one year. Admittedly, it does

seem strange, but events have been rather out of our control. I am sure people will enjoy the music."

Sir Edward Elgar (1857-1934) lived for many years in Malvern and died there.

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## Canary Wharf neighbours lose interference case

## Viewers have no right to watch TV, say law lords

By ALEXANDRA FREAN  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

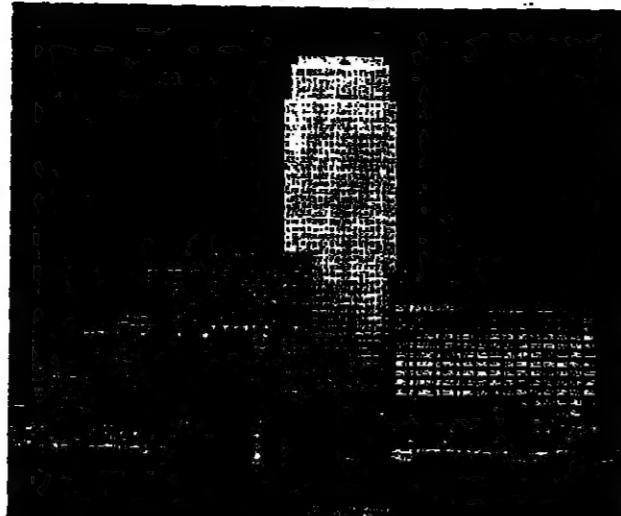
WATCHING television is not a fundamental right, the House of Lords has ruled. Residents living near Britain's tallest office block have been barred from seeking damages for having their picture reception ruined.

The 750 residents, led by a Roman Catholic nun and community worker, had complained about more than two years of interference caused by the 790ft Canary Wharf Tower in London's Docklands. Yesterday Sister Christine Frost was critical of the ruling that missing television did not count as a nuisance in legal terms.

"Television is now almost as important a part of daily life as electricity, gas and water supplies, and people have a fundamental right to receive it," she said.

"We brought this case not just for us, but so that other people wouldn't be trampled on and treated as if they had no rights by big conglomerates. This is sad result for the little people, for those who don't have money or a big voice."

One of the complainants was Rose Humphries, 72, a widow who is recovering from breast cancer. She said: "I spend a lot of time at home on my own watching television. For two years when we had



Canary Wharf Tower: residents could not watch EastEnders when the building blocked TV signals

the interference, I would have a picture and then suddenly it would disappear.

"I like the soaps, especially EastEnders, even though it is not really like life in the East End. When the picture went, I had to keep telephoning my daughter to find out what happened next."

In a unanimous judgment by five law lords, Lord Goff of Chieveley conceded that television "must provide a great distraction and relief from the circumscribed nature of the lives" of aged, lonely and bedridden people. However, that the deprivation of tele-

vision signals — as opposed to 5 per cent by most buildings — because of its flat stainless steel cladding and metalised windows. The television reception for many local residents was disrupted from 1989 until the installation of a new transmitter in 1992.

The residents' case was funded by Legal Aid, and costs ran into hundreds of thousands of pounds. Sally Moore, a solicitor with Leigh Day representing the residents, said she thought that her clients would feel that the justice system had let them down: "The ruling is basically equating the right to receive a television signal with the right to have a view or light through your window. It gives no more protection than that."

"What it is saying is that, if your television signals are fine, and then somebody comes and puts a great big building in front of the signal, then don't look to the law to protect you."

A spokeswoman for Canary Wharf Limited welcomed the ruling. She said: "As a developer, we well recognise the responsibilities to the local community, and when we became aware of the problem with television reception we were instrumental in arranging with the London Docklands Development Corporation and the BBC for a repeater transmitter to be installed."

The Canary Wharf Tower reflects about 80 per cent of tele-

## Addicts are urged to kick the habit

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

TELEVISION viewers were urged yesterday to store their sets in the coldest and most uncomfortable room in their homes at the start of Turn Off TV Week.

The campaign by the pressure group, White Dot aims to help television addicts to quit their habit for a week and encourage them to devote leisure time to more creative activities. David Burke, its founder, said the hours spent by most people in front of the box was eroding the quality of family life and undermining society. "A lot of people say, 'I watch a little bit of television, but only the good things.' Well, it's been shown that Britons watch an average of 3½ hours a day, so either somebody's watching an awful lot, or people are lying."

A week without television would break

the habit of a lifetime and help people to rebuild their lives, he added. Only one in 100 British homes manages without a television set. He advised viewers to make a list of all the hobbies that would interest them and to take them up. "Then you can become the person you tell everyone you are."

A similar campaign in the United States met with limited success: only about three million people and 25,000 schools participated in a week-long "strike" by viewers.

The television industry dismissed the campaign yesterday as a gimmick, pointing out that Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, had argued powerfully in favour of television as a force for good. In 1995 she told the Royal Television

Society's biennial conference in Cambridge that television provided a vital "window on the world" to viewers by informing them of important social issues.

John Woodward, the chief executive of the Producers' Alliance for Cinema and Television, which represents programme-makers, said the campaign was "absolute nonsense. Television is the most important force for education and communication in Western civilisation. There may be one of two countries where it could do some good not to watch television for a week, but the UK is not one of them because the quality of our programming is so high."

Radio and television, pages 50, 51



Alwyn Phillips: "I didn't say I was married. It didn't come up in conversation"

## New love from dating agency ended with a brief encounter

By ADRIAN LEE

A WOMAN decided on a swift revenge when she discovered that the new love she met through a dating agency was already married. Margaret Ruddlesden reached for her sewing kit and a pair of his underpants.

Ms Ruddlesden, 47, an occupational therapist, then confronted Alwyn Phillips's wife, handing her the underpants on which she had sewn the words: "Lying bastard". Her next visit was to her solicitors, to seek advice on suing the agency. Close Encounters of the Best Kind.

Ms Ruddlesden of Shirehampton, Bristol, maintains that it assured her Mr Phillips was divorced. The agency says it told her the Phillipses were merely estranged.

She said: "I joined the agency to find love and I ended up having my heart broken. I was interviewed in great depth by the agency



Margaret Ruddlesden: she wants to sue agency

and I presumed the same thing happened with other members."

The two dated for three weeks. Mr Phillips, also 47, sent her red roses. By her own admission, she was smitten. His double life emerged when she discovered his address from driving documents.

Yesterday Mr Phillips, who has two children, was unrec-

ognised. Speaking from his home in Winterbourne, Bristol, the frozen-food worker said: "I don't feel as if I have lied to anyone. I didn't tell Margaret I was still married as it didn't come up in the conversation."

"My wife and I are leading separate lives. We had agreed on a divorce long before I joined the dating agency. I joined to meet someone new and rebuild my life, but the relationship with Margaret was not working so I told her to cool it. She couldn't accept it and started causing trouble. My estranged wife was indifferent when Margaret handed her the pants."

Tim Holmes, who founded Close Encounters, said the agency would consider re-funding Ms Ruddlesden's £417 joining fee as a goodwill gesture. He added: "We try to take every possible precaution. Mr Phillips told us he was separated from his wife and we took his word for it."

Writing songs is therapy to me, says Sir Paul

BY A STAFF REPORTER

MUSIC gave Sir Paul McCartney the strength to cope with the trauma of his wife's illness, he said. It was a form of therapy that stopped him "going round the bend" while Lady McCartney underwent treatment in her fight against breast cancer.

In an interview in *The Times* today, he says: "Music has always been a consolation for me. When you get the teenage blues, the great remedy is to write a song. I wrote *Ebony and Ivory* after a little marital tiff with Linda. It was like 'Why can't we get it together — our piano can'."

"If you asked a lot of songwriters, you'd find that what happens is that they have a bad day so they skulk off to hide from everyone. Instead of lying on a psychiatrist's couch they talk to themselves in a song. I do that all the time."

"Linda's not been well the past year or so, although she's doing very well now. It's very difficult when you get that kind of situation in your life. I'm sensitive enough not to repress it all the time, and that helps you to deal with it."

His latest album, *Flaming Pie*, to be released on May 12, is streaked with melancholy. It features *Little Willow*, which was written after Maureen Starkey, Ringo Starr's first wife, died of cancer. "The morning I heard the news I couldn't think of anything else, so I wrote this in the hope that I could somehow convey how much I thought of her. It's certainly heartfelt."

He says half of his songs are personal and the other half are flippant throwaways, such as *Yellow Submarine*. "Some of them are very much me doing therapy with myself and half of them I'm just writing about Desmond and Molly."

"I'm sure a psychiatrist would look at it and find that Desmond and Molly are just both halves of my alter-ego or something. The truth about it is that I don't think about it. I've always seen the whole songwriting process as being magical."

Interview, page 37

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A PERSONAL LETTER FROM PAUL SYKES

Dear Reader

There has been much media discussion over the number of Conservative candidates who have confirmed to their local electorate, in their personal manifestos, that they would not vote in favour of a European single currency.

Before the election was called and before candidates went out canvassing for support, no-one knew the overwhelming opposition on the doorstep to a single currency. Many of the candidates had already ruled out a single currency, but of course many more are now responding to what the electorate wants to hear - Conservatives do not want to abolish the pound. Conservatives do not want a single economy for the whole of Europe run from a European Central Bank. Conservatives do not want their interest rates and mortgage rates decided in Frankfurt. Conservatives do not want to give up our gold and dollar reserves, they know that a single currency is the major irreversible step to building a Federal Europe.

There is no half way house. A single currency means ultimately a single country. To achieve a single currency without ultimately having a single country would be a *worst first* - there is no such thing. The people of Britain in ever increasing numbers are becoming aware of this, that is why they want us to say *no* to a single currency *now*. They do not want to wait two or three years for a woolly worded referendum from either of the main political parties.

What the people of Britain want to see is more trade with our European partners; they know that it is trade that creates peace and prosperity among nations, not politics.

I liken Chancellor Kohl to a train driver. All the time the ultimate destination of the train is a Federal Europe, but the driver slows down for the odd bend and while the passengers talk about business, trade and jobs, the train speeds up again and continues onwards towards its destination. As Chancellor Kohl himself put it, "in two years time, the process of integration will be irreversible". This is despite the fact that many surveys in Germany have shown that over 90% of its people do not want to scrap the Deutschmark and show how his political ambitions take precedence over the wishes of even his own nation.

Voters at this election are receiving promises from all the major parties on tax matters, legal reforms and other changes which affect their daily lives. If we do not rule out a single currency now and the federal agenda is achieved, all these discussions and promises will be irrelevant. These decisions would all be taken by the Federal Government of Europe.

There is now an overwhelming majority of candidates in Conservative held seats who have committed themselves to opposing a single currency. The electorate now know that if a Conservative Government is re-elected, then because of the free vote given by John Major, single currency proposals would not be endorsed by the House of Commons.

Voters now have a clear choice. Vote Conservative for Britain to remain a free and independent trading nation. Vote Labour for the adoption of single currency proposals, the Social Chapter, and further surrender of political and economic control over our country's affairs.

Now that the real facts about our relationship with Europe are starting to emerge, the voice of Britain is at long last beginning to be heard. I love my country and its enduring democracy and will fight all the way to retain its sovereignty intact.

Yours faithfully

PAUL SYKES

# Big salaries are price of success for top charities

BY IAN MURRAY

CHARITIES are paying huge salaries to executives recruited to run them as successful businesses, according to a survey of the top 3,000 voluntary organisations in Britain.

Geoff Armstrong, the highest-paid among them, received £192,000 last year, excluding pension contributions, as director-general of the Institute of Personnel and Development. Thirteen other charities paid their top executive more than £100,000 a year, and the average salary of directors of the top 100 charities was £75,000.

Generally, the bigger the charity, the more its directors are paid. However, Mr Armstrong's organisation, which describes itself as "the leading professional body specialising in advancing the management and development of people", is 195th by income and 239th in expenditure. It has a staff of 133 and its funds of £10 million are the 485th largest of any registered charity.

The 17 charities with directors earning at least £75,000 include Barnardo's, the British Red Cross, Cancer Research, the National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The 14 charities with directors on £65,000 include Help the Aged and Save the Children.

Eleven paying £55,000 include Marie Curie Cancer Care and The Children's Society.

However, others that paid £75,000 include the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, ranked 35th for income, The Leadership Trust, 937th for income, and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.

"Trustees have to ask themselves whether there are genuine reasons for this," Andrew Hind, honorary treasurer of Unicef's UK committee, writes in the annual *Top 3,000 Charities*.

**TOP 10 EARNERS**

1 Institute of Personnel and Development: Geoff Armstrong, dir-gen

2 Industrial Society: Tony Morgan, chief exec £192,000

3 Wellcome Trust: Dr Bridget Ogilvie, director £125,000

4 Royal Opera House Covent Garden: Sir Jeremy Isaacs, gen director (retired) £120,790

5 CIPFA: David Adams, director £115,000

6 Leeds Castle Foundation: Graham Jackson, MD £115,000

7 London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine: Harrison Spencer, chief exec £115,000

8 Royal Shakespeare Theatre: Paul Hughes, gen manager £112,594

9 Institute of Management Foundation: Roger Young, dir-gen £105,000

10 King Edward's Hospital Fund for London: Robert Maxwell, chief exec £105,000

Charities guide published today by Baring Asset Management. Perhaps it is because of the exceptionally high profile of a relatively small organisation or whether the salary it is paying is seriously out of line and needs correction over time."

Overall the Royal Opera House has the best-paid staff of any charity, with an average salary of £43,369. Its total wage bill rose by 4 per cent last year even though the pay roll was cut by 77 to 1,000. Sir Jeremy Isaacs, its director until the end of last year, was on a salary of £120,790. At the other end of the scale the British Pregnancy Advisory Service employs 627 people at an average wage of £6,555.

The voluntary sector has an annual turnover of £13 billion, employs 466,700 people with a wage bill of £6 billion, and contributes £3.6 billion to the economy. With Government increasingly relying on this sector to provide services, several major charities are having to dig into their reserve funds to pay for their work.

The guide shows that animal charities receive more legacies than those helping people. Of the top 100 charities, 17 per cent are connected with animal welfare. The Imperial Cancer Research Fund received the most from bequests: £36 million.



Another casualty of the dry weather is treated at the Prickly Ball Farm. Most come in hungry and dehydrated

## Wildlife is waking up to starvation

BY NICK NUTTALL  
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A COMBINATION of freezing nights and bone-dry ground is making it impossible for bats and hedgehogs emerging from hibernation to find enough food.

Large numbers of hedgehogs are starving and dying across parts of south and southwest England. Worms, one of their staple foods, are staying underground, beetles remaining hidden and small frogs and pond creatures sticking to the water. Drinking places for hedgehogs are drying up.

Elizabeth Dyas, who runs the Prickly Ball Farm near Newton Abbot, Devon, which cares for distressed hedgehogs, said yesterday: "They are coming in almost daily, brought in by concerned

members of the public and the RSPCA. Hedgehogs can cope with hot weather. The problem is the lack of food."

She said animals were being discovered lying on their sides, dehydrated. "We need to get nutrition inside them quickly. We have seen a big increase in the numbers of hedgehogs in a bad state. They are extremely thin and their skin becomes loose."

Bat experts said yesterday that they had never seen so many starving, malnourished creatures at this time of year. Patty Briggs, who runs a hospital for sick and injured bats in Bushey, Hertfordshire, said the warm weather during the day was bringing bats out of hibernation. But the cold nights, during which temperatures have regularly fallen below 8C, meant that there were few insects on which the animals could feed

and boost their depleted energy stores. Ms Briggs, a member of the Bat Conservation Trust whose sanctuary is part of a small national network of bat hospitals, said that over the past two weeks she had rescued 18 bats from across Hertfordshire and northwest London that were "just bags of bones".

In an attempt to save bats and to assist anyone who finds one in a distressed state, the trust and the People's Trust for Endangered Species have introduced a national bat helpline on 0171-627 8822.

David Bellamy, the conservation trust's president, said: "If a bat roost was threatened or you encountered a bat in distress in your garden or elsewhere, would you know where to call for the expert help the bat obviously needs? Now all you need do is ring bat man for help and advice."

## Brain drain lures bee scientists who set world buzzing

BY NICK NUTTALL  
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE brain drain is beckoning a British research team who discovered how to glue tiny antennae to the backs of bumblebees. Funding problems mean that their work on an insect tracking system could be lured abroad.

Their mini-radar is the only one of its kind in the world that can track low-flying insects over large distances to reveal where they feed and how far they fly. The work was originally launched to find a way of tracking the disease-carrying tsetse fly, but it has also provided new insights to help to halt a decline in bumblebees, which are vital for pollinating some early crops and flowers.

Cuts in government funding and the recent privatisation of the Radar Insect Group, based at the Natural Resources Institute in Malvern, Hereford and Worcester, means that the three researchers may go to universities and institutes elsewhere. One of them, Joe Riley, said: "There is a Swede, a German and an American group who are all interested in the system. If this technology is taken up abroad, this will be a big disappointment, but we are now constrained to go wherever customers will pay."

World interest in the work follows five years of research, funded mainly by the Overseas Development Agency, into the tiny antenna, which weighs three milligrams and is 16 millimetres high. Field trials on the system — called the harmonic generating tag — showed that the creatures can fly normally with the extra load.

The key to the device's tiny size is its ability to pick up operating power from incoming signals, so that no on-board battery is required. Radar had been used to monitor high-flying insects, but their ground-hugging counterparts could not be tracked because of the signals returned from plants and other objects.

The government-funded Institute of Arable Crops Research at Rothamsted, Hertfordshire, has been unable to persuade the Biotechnological and Biological Sciences Research Council to pay to hire the radar group for further studies, although some late funding has come from the British Beekeepers Association.

The three-man team and equipment cost £20,000 a month.

Dr Juliet Osbourne, a scientist at the institute, said that the system had revolutionised their research and shown that bumblebees flew at least 800 metres from their nests for food, considerably further than previously thought.

It means that farmers may need to plant suitable food sources at far greater distances. She added: "There are lots of other findings to be made. I suspect they may fly much further."



British bees may get science off their backs

on-board battery is required.

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## Depressed builder wins right to payout

A construction worker whose life has been wrecked by the trauma of witnessing a colleague's death in 1988 yesterday won a victory in his fight for six-figure compensation. Ian Young, 46, from St Ives, Kent, was 6ft away when a scaffolding pole he had handled to Andrew Cook brushed an overhead electricity cable, killing Mr Cook instantly.

His case was dismissed last year by a High Court judge, who said Mr Young had not been close enough to the accident to qualify for damages from the site's developers. But the appeal court overturned that decision. Lord Justice Hutchison said Mr Young was a primary victim. "There is nothing disreputable about a claim for damages based on psychiatric injury."

**City church aid**

The Bishop of London, the Right Rev Richard Chartres, announced the creation of the City Churches' Development Group to help the 57 churches in the City of London. He said the answer for struggling churches was certainly not "closure and retreat".

**Berserk shopper**

Police used CS gas to subdue a man covered in white paint and dressed only in boxer shorts who went berserk in Sainsbury's in Portsmouth, causing damage amounting to thousands of pounds. John Chalk, owner of a nearby pet store, was taken to hospital.

**Cricketer dies**

A 20-year-old batsman has died after collapsing during net practice. Richard Parsons, a student at Exeter University, had taken a couple of catches when he became ill on the field at Pyrford, Surrey. Paramedics could not unblock his airway.

**Whale was sick**

The sperm whale that died in the Firth of Forth last month had bone disease and no food in its stomach. However, Andrew Kitchener, from the zoology department at the National Museums of Scotland, said: "We have no idea why it died."

**Paramedic fired**

A trainee paramedic who photographed the body of a dead woman at the scene of a crime has been sacked. Avon Ambulance NHS Trust dismissed the unnamed ambulance crew for gross misconduct in breaching patient confidentiality.

**Historic loss**

Documents about the Adams family, who left Somerset for America in the 17th century and whose descendants included five US Presidents, were stolen from Barton St David church, near Somerton. Marriage registers and church plate were also stolen.

**Sausage kills boy**

A four-year-old boy died the day after he choked on a piece of sausage during lunch at St Joseph's Roman Catholic school. Efforts to revive Andrew Dovey, of Llandudno, North Wales, were hampered by his large tonsils, an inquest in the town was told.

**Tractor death**

A man died in the gypsum mine at Brightling, East Sussex, when a tractor he was driving toppled and crushed him. The miner, aged 55, was working deep underground. Sussex police said: "The tractor somehow overturned and pinned him underneath."

THE TIMES

Mother to de

Big game hunts are rigged, says TV sleuth

SATELLITE helped the police find the killer. The European space agency's satellite data supercontinent

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# Mother claimed rent benefit to develop £200,000 house

By PAUL WILKINSON

A WOMAN planned and built a £200,000 house while living in a housing association flat and claiming rent benefit. Jacqueline Hull used the state handover over a five-year period to help to develop Suncliffe Lodge, a five-bedroom detached home. She convinced council officials, and staff at subsidised accommodation run by the Joseph Rowntree Trust, that she was a penniless mother of three, abandoned by her husband and struggling to survive in rented housing.

In fact she was a property owner with her own business, running a slimming club. The only time she was homeless was when she sold her terraced house at a profit to reinvest in her building project. It was then that the trust provided her with a home.

The story of how Hull, 40, cheated her way, from a £20,000 house in a back street in York to an imposing residence less than a mile away in Huntington unfolded during her trial at York Crown Court.

## Big game hunts are rigged, says TV sleuth

By MICHAEL HORNSEY

LIONS, tigers, gorillas and other wild animals, many of them endangered and legally protected, are being killed in rigged hunts, costing thousands of pounds, for the pleasure of wealthy American and European tourists, a television investigation claims.

In film from South Africa a lion hunting lioness is shown being separated from her bewildered cub and shot by a German hunter only a few yards away from them on the other side of a wire fence. It takes ten shots and several minutes for the animal to die.

The footage is contained in *Making A Killing*, the first in a new series of *The Cook Report*, to be transmitted by ITV on May 6, in which the veteran investigator Roger Cook poses as a wealthy businessman keen to shoot big game. "We discovered that, if you have enough money and the right contacts, you can go and shoot any animal in the world, no matter how rare or protected by law that species may be," Cook says.

"You do not even have to be a good shot because the animals are often baited into fenced areas or rugged so they become sitting targets."

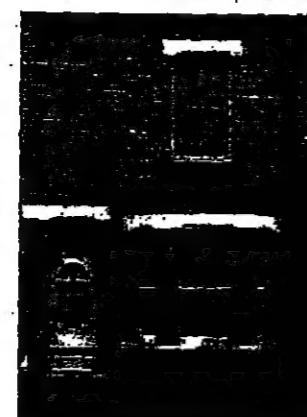
In the Mokolo Game Ranch in South Africa, Cook, using the alias of James Rogers, agrees to pay \$18,000 (£11,100) for a guaranteed opportunity to shoot a lion.

In Spain a middleman is seen offering Cook the chance of shooting gorillas in Cameroon and tigers in Malaysia.

## Satellite data confirm supercontinent theory

SATELLITE data have helped to fill in the blanks in the history of Antarctica (Nigel Hawkes writes).

The observations made by the European Space Agency's satellite ERS-1, confirm the existence of a missing piece of the jigsaw that once made up the supercontinent of Gondwanaland 180 million years ago. Today's continents can be put together to recreate Gondwanaland, but only if an



Hull made £30,000 on her terraced home, left, and built Suncliffe Lodge



where she was convicted of four specimen charges of deception.

Sentence was postponed for eight weeks after North Yorkshire Police said they were considering a request for confiscation of Hull's assets. They want to investigate her financial background and discover exactly what she owns.

Julian Goose, for the prosecution, said that, in 1985, Hull and her husband bought a terraced house in Acorn, York. Three years later he left

until 1993 when Hull sold the house for £55,000, pocketing more than £30,000 profit. Shortly afterwards she applied for a council house, signing documents saying that she had no assets.

She initially claimed £45 a week. When she increased the claim to £50, she said the rent had gone up, but in fact her mortgage interest had risen and she wanted the increase to cover it.

The allowances were paid

home towards developing the building plot in Huntington. The rest of the cash came from a £70,000 mortgage based on her slimming business.

But an internal audit at York council exposed her double dealing and, by the time the new house was completed in early 1994, she had been arrested on suspicion of fraud.

Hull told the court she could not afford to move into the new property, saying: "I could not have afforded to even turn the heating on, let alone run it." She put the house up for sale with an asking price of £200,000, but eventually agreed a swap for a house valued at about £70,000 at Crambeck, between York and Malton, and cash to make up the balance.

Throughout her trial Hull maintained that she had not been dishonest, but merely followed the instructions of her mother when filling in forms and making applications. She claimed that the plot of land at Huntington was owned by her mother and that, after she had repaid all her loans, she was again penniless.



Jacqueline Hull convinced officials she was homeless

## Scientists create the eight-day petunia

By NIGEL HAWKES

GENETIC engineering has created a petunia that keeps its flowers four times longer than normal. Henry Klee, of the University of Florida, says that any type of flower could be made to last longer in the garden and in the house.

"We've had flowers that have lasted for weeks on the laboratory bench," says Dr Klee. "We're very excited about it. I think it will be important for the florist industry and for the gardener. The aim is to put the gene into varieties that the gardener will use for bedding plants."

The petunias were given a defective gene from *Arabidopsis*, a small weed-like plant that has been the subject of intensive investigation. The gene is responsible for making the receptor for ethylene, a gas that ripens fruit and makes flowers shed their petals. The engineered plants cannot produce the receptor, the "socket" into which the ethylene plugs.

If the plants cannot sense ethylene, they do not shed their flowers. In laboratory experiments, Dr Klee reports in *Nature Biotechnology*, petunias which would lose their flowers in two days lasted eight.

So far, Dr Klee has grown the plants only in the greenhouse. Permission is needed from American regulatory authorities before genetically modified plants can be grown out of doors, and it is likely to be some years before the plants are available in garden centres.

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Complaints about rail reliability rise by 56%

By A STAFF REPORTER

COMPLAINTS by rail passengers in southern England in the year to March were 56 per cent up on the previous year and the highest of the decade. A total of 1,024 complaints were received by the South of England Rail Users' Consultative Committee.

The committee's latest figures include February and March when South West Trains cancelled 39 trains a day because of driver shortages. The committee said complaints about reliability had shown a significant increase in the final quarter of the year.

It also blamed SWT and another privatised company, Connex South Eastern, for an increase in complaints about information at stations.

The anti-privatisation group, Save Our Railways, which released the figures, said yesterday that the level of complaints showed privatisation was not working. Keith Bill, the national secretary, said: "Commuters are sick of seeing companies making fat cat profits while quality services deteriorate."

**BT**

**Warning of child malnutrition**

## Stores accused of promoting bad diets among poor

BY ROBIN YOUNG

MANY British children are threatened with malnutrition in the next century and many people on low incomes are eating more poorly than they were at the start of the 1980s, according to two reports published today.

Supermarket chains are accused of contributing to the degradation of poor people's diets by one of the reports, from the National Food Alliance. A survey of special lines in leading supermarkets found that most items being promoted were fatty and sugary processed foods.

Some had no nutrition information on the labels and those that did often failed to give details about the sugar or saturated fat content. The best bargains, according to the report's author, Tim Lobstein, were usually bulk buys, which were only of use to those with ready money, a car for transport and space for storage.

Lack of money, inadequate shopping facilities and poor transport were the main causes of food poverty in Britain, according to the briefing paper. It says that poor

diets are not a result of ignorance or recklessness.

The hardest hit among low-income groups, it says, are women, particularly those with young children. Young people and the elderly are also badly affected. While high-income families eat healthier foods such as low-fat milk, wholemeal bread, fresh fish and fresh fruit and vegetables, low-income families eat more fat, sugar and salt and less of the essential nutrients, the paper says, arguing that diet explains why poor people have greater risk of dying prematurely from high-blood pressure, heart disease or stroke.

In a separate report, the famine relief charity Save the Children gives a warning that increasing numbers of children in Britain will be at risk of malnutrition in the next century unless urgent action is taken.

Its report shows that poorer families living in deprived areas are unable to give their children the food they need because they do not have access to a good variety of food.

Women living on estates in

London, Glasgow, Coventry, Sunderland and Belfast had incomes that, despite their resourcefulness and best efforts, would not stretch to a balanced diet for their children, the report says. Without access to supermarkets selling fresh foods at reasonable prices, many women reported missing meals themselves so that their children should not go hungry.

Mike Aaronson, Save the Children's director-general, said yesterday: "It is shocking that we are facing the spectre of child malnutrition here. Lack of money, difficulty reaching decent affordable food and lack of safety nets are key factors. We call on the Government to make a firm commitment to develop clear policies which will build on low-income families' efforts to feed their children properly."

□ "If they don't eat a healthy diet it's their own fault": Myths about Food and Low Income, Dr Tim Lobstein (National Food Alliance, 51 Worship Street, EC2A 2BH; £20)

□ Out of the Frying Pan: The true cost of feeding a family on a low income (Save the Children, 17 Grove Lane, London, SE5 8RD; in return for donation)



Eating without stopping: on average, Britons eat a hamburger every five days and spend £41 a year on fast food

## Britain is fast-food capital of Europe

BRITAIN spends more on fast food than any of the other main European countries, according to market research (Robin Young writes). Mintel estimates that Britons will spend almost £2.5 billion on hamburgers, pizzas and chicken meals sold through fast-food chains this year, an average of £41 per head.

That compares with an estimated expenditure of £29 per head in France, £20 in Germany and £11 in Spain. The Italians come bottom of the fast-food league, spending only £3 per head.

Hamburgers dominate the fast-food market in all five countries, particularly in France, where they account for 88 per cent of fast-food sales. The proportion is only marginally smaller in Italy and Germany (86 per cent and 85 per cent

### THE BIG SPENDERS

	Annual (£m)	Per head (£)
UK	2,425	41
France	1,701	29
Germany	1,680	20
Spain	427	11
Italy	176	3

Pizza, hamburger and chicken chains only (Source: Mintel)

chicken every three weeks, the researchers say.

Hamburgers are relatively cheaper in Britain than any of the other countries surveyed, with McDonald's and Burger King competing aggressively for market share. McDonald's British profits were £45 million in 1995, compared with a £60 million profit from 2,000 stores in 101 countries of just under £1 billion.

Chris Butcher, Mintel's leisure analyst, said yesterday: "Fast food is benefiting from the increasing trend towards snacking and convenience foods. Britain is the fast-food capital of Europe. The success of fast food in general lies in the standardised menus, where quality, quantity and price are guaranteed."

□ European Fast Food (Mintel: £495)

## Transition of HIV to Aids is speeding up

By IAN MURRAY

HIV has become more aggressive in the 1990s, with infected people progressing to Aids twice as fast on average than in the past.

A study of 285 patients infected between 1985 and 1995 has shown that those who contracted the disease after December 1989 had a higher probability of declining in their immunity system and began suffering from Aids sooner than those who were infected before that date.

The research, published today in the *British Medical Journal*, involved regular testing of patients who tested positive but had been negative at some time in the previous 12 months.

The patients included 208 men and 87 women, aged between 17 and 61 of whom 163 were drug injectors, 64 male homosexuals and 56 heterosexuals. The research showed that age, sex, social background, or the way in which a person became infected, made no difference to the findings.

## Council sunlamps 'safer' for the tanorexics

By IAN MURRAY  
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE risk of contracting skin cancer from sunbeds is far greater in private health clubs than at council leisure centres, a skin expert says today. Sunbeds available in the commercial sector were said to emit a significantly greater level of dangerous ultraviolet rays.

The warning by Dr Andrew Wright, a consultant dermatologist from Bradford, comes as the Imperial Cancer Research Fund is highlighting the risks of "tanorexia" — suffered by sunbed addicts whose desire for a permanent tan leaves them with premature wrinkles, a leathery appearance, fragile, thin skin and a heightened risk of skin cancer.

Dr Wright tested 50 sunbeds and found that there was a threefold variation in the output of ultraviolet A. Overall, the levels in the 33 in council-run establishments were much lower.

Councils are being advised to remove sunbeds because of mounting evidence that they can cause serious skin cancers. However, in a letter to the *British Medical Journal*, Dr Wright says: "Without further education of the public in the potential danger of sunbeds, their removal from local authority premises will drive those who wish to use them into the private sector, where the dangers may be greater."

About 11 per cent of women and 7 per cent of men use indoor tanning equipment. The Imperial Cancer Research Fund says that a tenth of them are in danger of becoming "tanorexics", using a sunbed more than 30 times a year.

Dr Veronique Patel, consultant dermatologist at the Royal London Hospital, said that many women, particularly in urban areas, liked to keep a constant tan: "These women have had a tanned skin for so many years now that they cannot give it up, even when you tell them it is dangerous. They get really miserable when you tell them they should stop, and most of them can't."

In a new fact sheet for the summer, the fund warns that 30 minutes on a sunbed will give the equivalent dose of ultraviolet A radiation as a full day on the beach. This type of radiation is the main kind emitted by sunbeds and was believed to be safe until recently.

The fund says its research shows that there is no safe level of use for sunbeds. While not calling for a ban, it wants people to understand the risks. The safest cure for tanorexia, it says, is a dye to tint the skin, used in conjunction with a very high protection sun cream.

## Pig diseases will push up pork price

By ROBIN YOUNG

PRICES for bacon, ham and pork are bound to rise shortly because of outbreaks of swine fever in Holland and foot and mouth disease in Taiwan.

British supermarkets say that so far they have absorbed the increased cost of the international surge in pig meat prices but small butchers have already had to increase prices of bacon and pork by about 10 per cent.

Advertised promotions this week include:

Asda: rump steak £6.49 kg, pork chops £2.49 for 200g, Chorley Valley crispy Peking duck £4.59 for 400g, sausages £1.49 for 100g, South African mustard sausages 65p lb, vintage Stilton £6.49 kg, garlic cabbages £1.09 for 90g, pizza breads 55p for eight.

Harrods: Thai pork ribs £4.50 kg, grilled vegetables £2.29 for 100g, pumpkin tortelloni £1.99 for 100g, Culatello parma ham £5.99 for 100g, Brie cheese, Sartene goats cheese £3.99 each.

Teddies: chicken quarter pounders £1.99 for four, part-boned chicken breasts £3.99 for 1.5kg, roast chicken legs £1.19 for 283g, cod fillet, fish fingers £1.39 for 16, rainbow trout £2.99 for 80g, whole beans 74p for 90g, garden peas £1.49 for 1.8kg.

Kwik Save: Ross tendergrill steaks £1.67 for six, Lion mixed herbs 33g, Shloer £1.39 lb, Anchor butter 61p for 250g, Lurpak butter 75p for 250g.

Marks & Spencer: chicken breast portions £2.99 for four, quiche lorraine £1.49 for 100g, haddock fillets in light crisp breadcrumbs £2.99 for four, Tuscan extra virgin olive oil £2.99 for 500ml, strawberries £1.99 for 500g, NZ Cox apples £1.59 for six.

Morrisons: beef brisket £1.49 lb, frying steak £3.28 kg, turkey steak £4.38 kg, mackerel 85p lb, plait fillet £3.99 lb, prepared lobsters 79p for 250g, large oranges 99p for six, Sun Red seedless grapes 99p lb.

Safeway: frying steak £6.49 kg, medium chicken £1.89 kg, rainbow trout £3.49 for four (850g), unsmoked bacon steaks 65p for 200g, beef fillet pies 99p for four, mature Dorset yellow cheddar £1.99 lb, corned beef 24p 4lb.

Sealmills: fresh NZ leg of lamb £3.29 kg, boneless rolled pork shoulder roast £2.79 kg, meat loaf in gravy £1.65 for 454g, turkey breast steaks £2.39 for four (450g), smoked haddock fillet £1.88 lb, tomatoes 79p for 12, carrots 29p for 500g, prepacked iceberg lettuce 79p for 200g.

Tesco: topside £4.69 kg, pork loin steaks £4.99 kg, lamb chops £7.99 kg, haddock fillet £1.95 lb, golden trout £1.89 lb, dressed Cromer crab £2.49 each, asparagus £1.59 per bundle, corn on the cob 99p for two, Packham pears 39p lb, large Calabrian melons £1.69 each.

Waitrose: eight-ribbed pork sausages £7.99, diced veal £2.49 for 340g, diced braising beef £2.59 for 500g, free-range chickens up to 2.3 kg £2.99, frozen petit pois 99p for 2lb, red onions 69p lb, beansprouts 45p for 250g, cauliflower 46p lb, avocado 99p for two, Jonagold apples 45p lb.

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# ELECTION 97

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**On the stump with  
Bell's belles**

**What the parties say  
about Ireland**

**Arthur Scargill hits out  
at the 'turncoat Tories'  
of New Labour**

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## Blair waits to unwrap the train set

MATTHEW COOK

The Times,  
continuing its  
interviews with  
party leaders,  
talks to  
Tony Blair

BY PETER STOTHARD

**W**hen we spoke to Paddy Ashdown last week it was in the artificial light of the Editor's windowless office at *The Times*. When we spoke to John Major it was in the sharp natural light of the first floor at Downing Street. Tony Blair spoke to us yesterday afternoon in the half-light, as cloudy moments almost the gloaming, of his Islington front-room. As fell the light, so fell the conversations.

The Labour leader was as guarded in his words as the Prime Minister had been bold; he was as mysterious as Ashdown had been bright. Sitting in front of the net curtains, beneath a barely visible poster for his local Labour candidate, he was like a friendly fortune-teller. When the sun found a way through to his face, it lit up just half of it, a mere three of the famous shining teeth, a few paper petals of the peonies in a bowl by his side and one sleeve of his new regulation-purple casual shirt. The other side lay in complete obscurity.

It was a peculiar feeling for us — and it seemed so for him too. We were talking about an election that he knows he has won, about a job he already knows to be his, in a manner that allowed the open admission of neither of those facts.

Peter Riddell began by asking about his plans for government, the possibility that he might put into action his ideas about ending "tribal politics", that he may bring an outsider into the Cabinet or change Whitehall structures. Blair did not rule out any of these prospects. He saw the advantages of a new Labour government being quickly different in style from its predecessors. But he promised only "the broadest use of the talents available" and a "leading role" for John Prescott before lapsing into smiles of concealment.

**W**hen the questioning became especially intrusive, he would give a grand unbroken smile, the sort that the cartoonists love, saying better by this than by any words that there were territories, large dark areas of territory, that this interview was not going to explore. "We can offer a fresh start in politics as in everything else ... and, having won as new Labour, we are going to govern as new Labour," he told us, looking ceilingward at one of two small chandeliers.

After that Blair became more cheerful — expanding along the lines familiar from his campaign speeches. We heard about education and health, and welfare-to-work and toughness on crime and its causes. Neither his content nor his manner of delivery provided the slightest distraction from the consideration of what his previous remark about "governing as new Labour" might mean.

His mandate, as he sees it, will not be to reverse Tory



reforms: "There is no point in being daft about it ... there's plenty of things that are very good about Britain ... and there's no point in being silly and saying that the country is failing to bits, it's not." There is, even, more certainly no mandate for old Labour pragmatism: "Unwanted policies that are stuck in the past." The mandate is for new Labour.

What is new Labour, we are left to wonder. Is it simply what the voters voted for? What are the voters voting for? For new Labour? If the Blairs' front room had had a piano — and a piano seemed strangely absent amid this plain and comfortable Victorian setting — we might all have turned this parlor into a new Labour song, to the tune of *Frère Jacques* or *London Bridge is Falling Down*.

Riddell brought us back to reality by repeating his questions about Labour's plans for government in slightly different ways. Blair's answers mingled amusement at our exasperation and apprehension lest even talking about power might yet deprive him of it. He showed a superstition that seemed to me to be almost childlike. It is as though a young boy knows that Christmas is coming and that there is a new train set waiting for him in the attic; and yet he worries that to talk about passenger-carriages, points or stations might irritate Father Christmas and keep the gift locked up in the chimney.

Anatole Kaletsky likened him later to a man with a winning lottery ticket on a Saturday night who sits immobile in a corner, unable to believe that his luck is real, until the Monday morning when the shop that sold him the ticket opens and he can hold the prize in his hand.

Despite the reticence, however, it does seem that Labour voters who expect a dash of instant activity to distinguish a Blair government from the Tory past will be disappointed. "I'm not a great believer in a dazzling first hundred days which then disappears up in

telling the truth. The bright side of his face looks as though it might even rise to the bait. But the dark side wins. He looks down and twists his feet in his black suede shoes as though he could make a fist with his toes or even kick back a response like his footballing photo-opportunity partner, Kevin Keegan. And then he subsides back into the official response that "there are no hidden spending promises that require hidden taxes ... we can't work on the assumption that the Conservative budget is wrong".

Why not, Kaletsky asks, you accuse them of lying about everything else? The answer is a smile. If we were to challenge the Treasury figures, the Tories could accuse Labour of wanting to tax and spend more. If that accusation were believed, Labour would lose votes. So, the smile continues.

Kaletsky retires in impatience. My own certainty about tax is simply hardened by all this play: *Times*-reading non-payers are being hugged now in order to be squeezed later.

Blair says that as every day goes by he thinks of governing more and of electorally less. He admitted that he was nervous at the beginning of the campaign but says that he is now more relaxed and is even enjoying himself. He certainly looks at ease as he sets out his general approach to the failure of schools and GP fund-holders. And then he suddenly starts up again. Perhaps he thinks he is being too relaxed, or even, sin and horror, complacent. He jumps forward in his chair and attacks his critics for failing to give credit for all the advances that Labour has made for example the pension proposals of Chris Smith, the local candidate whose name is twice in the window.

He claps his left palm with the back of his right hand, making a clap to accompany every point. I count ten single claps before the speech is over, followed by bursts of clapping to back up subsidiary points. We are no longer in the mood for *Frère Jacques*. If there were a trumpeter behind the pale gold curtains, or a set of drums under the tapestry-laden stairs, we could all be doing the cha-cha-cha.

When he is on the campaigning offensive, the Labour leader is as confident as the conductor of a seaside dance band — almost fragrant with the confidence that he can do the business without thinking too much, almost gleaming with the certainty that the performance always goes down well and will continue to do so. It is in those other and governing moments, the ones that he says are increasing in number every day, that there are the signs of fear.

He wants to be seen as a radical. There is something improbable about being a radical leader of the Labour Party and a cautious prime minister. I won't be. I'll be a radical prime minister." He wants to be seen as a doer, not

a sayer. "The single most frustrating thing about opposition politics is that you're always saying, never doing." But there nothing in the substance of our interview that suggests that the Opposition cast of mind has yet changed, that the saying man is poised to be the doing man next week.

Blair says that as every day goes by he thinks of governing more and of electorally less. He admitted that he was nervous at the beginning of the campaign but says that he is now more relaxed and is even enjoying himself. He certainly looks at ease as he sets out his general approach to the failure of schools and GP fund-holders. And then he suddenly starts up again. Perhaps he thinks he is being too relaxed, or even, sin and horror, complacent. He jumps forward in his chair and attacks his critics for failing to give credit for all the advances that Labour has made for example the pension proposals of Chris Smith, the local candidate whose name is twice in the window.

He claps his left palm with the back of his right hand, making a clap to accompany every point. I count ten single claps before the speech is over, followed by bursts of clapping to back up subsidiary points. We are no longer in the mood for *Frère Jacques*. If there were a trumpeter behind the pale gold curtains, or a set of drums under the tapestry-laden stairs, we could all be doing the cha-cha-cha.

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Major and Kaletsky are wrong. "I haven't been ripped to pieces yet in my political career and I don't intend to start now." There are hints there of prime ministerial stardom.

The final part of our conversation consists of our speech by Blair about his role in the worldwide changes in the Centre Left. He is at first wary of too close comparison with Clinton. Then Riddell makes a disparaging remark about the American President's first-term record. The Labour leader almost jumps out of his chair. His cushion is pushed aside and his hands start clapping and pointing as though conducting *Frère Jacques* and dancing the columbia at the same time. "Well, he got re-elected," he prophesies as we leave.

Blair himself insists that

A.K.  
PS.

## Labour sets golden target of putting Britain in the Olympic top ten

LABOUR set an ambitious new target for British sports stars yesterday and declared that the nation would shoot back into the Olympic medal league-top ten within a decade (Jill Sherman writes).

Jack Cunningham claimed that, with the help of a Labour government, Britain would put behind its worst-ever performance at Atlanta (36th) and scoop up the medals as it did under Harold Wilson in the 1960s.

But it was under Liberal administrations, at the turn of the century, that Britons strode the world sporting

Olympic Games	Position in medal table	Party in power	Olympic Games	Position in medal table	Party in power
1896 Athens	5th	Conservative	1956 Melbourne	8th	Conservative
1900 Paris	3rd	Conservative	1960 Rome	12th	Conservative
1904 St Louis	7th	Conservative	1964 Tokyo	10th	Conservative
1908 London	1st	Liberal	1968 Mexico City	10th	Labour
1912 Stockholm	2nd	Liberal	1972 Munich	12th	Conservative
1920 Antwerp	4th	Conservative	1976 Montreal	13th	Conservative
1924 Paris	4th	Conservative	1980 Moscow	9th	Conservative
1928 Amsterdam	11th	Conservative	1984 Los Angeles	11th	Conservative
1932 Los Angeles	8th	Conservative	1988 Seoul	12th	Conservative
1936 Berlin	10th	Conservative	1992 Barcelona	15th	Conservative
1948 London	12th	Labour	1996 Atlanta	36th	Conservative
1952 Helsinki	18th	Conservative			* General election

Actually once has Britain only once has Britain actually topped the league, in 1908 in London, when Asquith was still in charge. A quick tally of the Olympic successes of each political party puts the Liberals, rather

than Labour, way out ahead. Since 1896, Britain has competed at the Olympics 14 times under a Tory government, five times under Labour and

twice under the Liberals. The Tories have an average finishing position of 11.92, Labour 9.8 and the Liberals 2. But Dr Cunningham, the Shadow

Heritage Secretary, was determined to ensure that Labour now puts British athletes back on the map.

"I would hope that, with coherent commitment within a decade, we could see Britain back among the top ten most successful nations at the Olympics," he said.

Yesterday Labour's plans won backing from Tessa Sanderson, the javelin gold medallist; Shona Edwards, the rugby league star; Brian Moore, the former England rugby union player; and Brendan Foster, an Olympic bronze medallist at 10,000m.

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• £100,000 Maximum Cashback Available

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• £100,000 Maximum Cashback Available



Central Office risks voters' condemnation over intensity of personal attacks on Labour leader

## Pension gibe has Tories reaching for the vitriol

**IF EVER** evidence were needed that Tony Blair has got under the collective skin of the Tory party, yesterday afternoon's Conservative press conference was it. Never in recent history have such serious personal charges been thrown at an Opposition leader as in 20 minutes at Central Office when Mr Blair was accused of lying no fewer than eight times.

Neil Kinnock was accused of a lot, but never outright lying. Michael Foot was far too harmless to the Tories to be treated in that way.

Campaign-hardened journalists listened with increasing fascination as the vitriol poured forth from Brian Mawhinney and Stephen Dorrell. The party chairman said that Mr Blair had been telling lies about pensions, the NHS and VAT on food in "cynical pre-programmed attempt to divert attention from Labour's weaknesses".

Mr Dorrell said of the Labour leader: "The more he panics the more he lies." He had been telling "bare-faced, despicable lies".

It was a big gamble for the Tories, but one they had to take. All the evidence suggests that the public dislikes name-calling. The Conservatives knew they would be accused of desperation. But the alternative, as Dr Mawhinney told

The evidence suggests that the public dislikes name-calling, but yesterday the abuse reached new depths of rancour. Philip Webster explains why

journalists, was to let Mr Blair's claims about the abolition of the state pension go unchallenged.

The day had begun with both sides hurling horror stories at each other. The Prime Minister predicted an emergency Labour Budget to raise taxes and the Labour leader claimed the Tories would increase VAT and abolish the state pension.

As the opening of the final week was marked by a violent outbreak of stare tactics, Mr Blair warned voters that they had a stark choice between a divided country or a new start.

Kenneth Clarke and Mr Major claimed that people could face an extra £540 tax hike to finance Labour's £12 billion spending "black hole". That was a smear, Mr Blair said.

Of Mr Blair's assertion that a Conservative government would rob millions of their state pensions, Mr Major said that was "absolutely scurrilous, absolutely scurrilous".

For a time it seemed that the campaign had ground to

initiative when it was unveiled just before the election. The Conservatives are outraged at what they see as Labour misrepresentation.

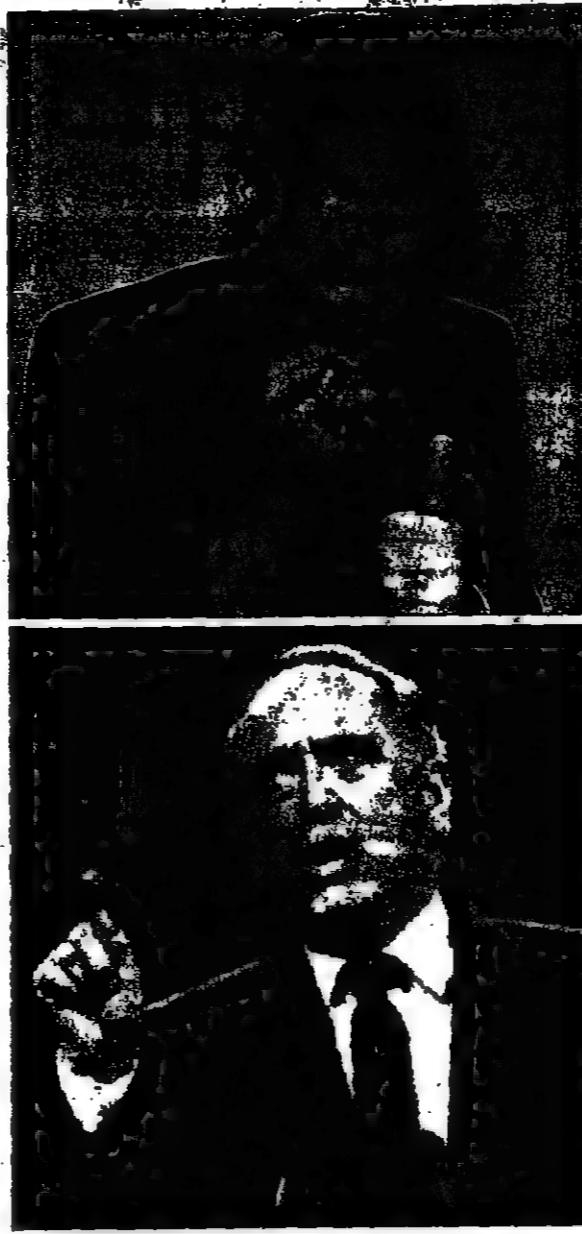
They decided the best form of defence was attack, acknowledging the risk that they were giving the issue an even higher profile. Labour were last night threatening to change their plans and campaign on it again today.

The other purpose behind yesterday's attack was the knowledge that "Blair the Movie", as last night's election broadcast about the Labour leader had been dubbed, was about to hit the screens.

Enough had been written about it in advance for Central Office to suspect that a flattering portrayal of the "raw Blair" was about to surface. The "lie" exercise was clearly an attempt to puncture him.

Earlier in the day Mr Blair, standing alone on the platform as he brought his new offensive to London, delivered an unscripted plea for voters not to underestimate the size of the choice before them next week and the implications of that choice.

The Tories have given notice that they still believe their best chance of a comeback is to wreck Mr Blair's credibility. It could be a nasty final week.



Stephen Dorrell, left, and Brian Mawhinney

## Telling fact from fiction in battle over old-age pay

By JILL SHERMAN

**TORY** leaders yesterday rejected Labour charges about their pension scheme, under which young people in their early twenties will be given £9 a week rebate from their National Insurance contributions to build up their own private pension scheme.

The Government will also transfer the 5 per cent of earnings from Serps into new pension funds. Today's workers and pensioners would be unaffected by the scheme which would be phased in after 2001.

The charge by Tony Blair that the Tories intend to abolish the state pension is not strictly true. Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, made clear when he announced his new Basic Pension Plus scheme that the basic state pension would be protected and uprated with inflation.

Mr Lilley gave a commitment that the Government would guarantee the basic state pension if pensions funds did not produce an adequate income.

Labour claims that the plans "open the door to full privatisation of the state pension". It insists that, if the pension funds go bust, there would be no money to guarantee even the basic state

pension. Mr Blair's accusation about a shortfall in funding has more credibility. The Tories have admitted that their scheme would cost £160 million in the first year, accumulating each year to a maximum of £7 billion by 2040, but saving £40 billion in the long term.

They have not spelt out where the money would come from in the short term. They have admitted that the £7 billion is net of the income that would be raised by scrapping tax relief on pension contributions, but they insist that the money will be raised by the equalisation of the pension age to 65, raising £15 billion by 2025.

Labour does not accept the £15 billion figure, saying this was never built into the pension plans and that there is no date on when that income would accrue. In the early stages it seems plausible that taxes might have to go up, or certainly not go down, or spending cut.

Mr Blair's charge that older people would be brought into the scheme is dubious and seems a tactic to play on fears of present pensioners.

But the Tories have insisted that no existing pensioners and no one now in work would be affected.

## Clarke defies rebels over single currency

By PHILIP WEBSTER

**KENNETH CLARKE** defiantly raised the pro-European banner yesterday by insisting that John Major would have no choice but to stick to his "negotiate-and-decide" policy on the single currency if he won the election next week.

Eurosceptic Tory candidates privately expressed irritation with the Chancellor after he announced that in spite of more than 200 of them opposing a single currency outright, in contradiction of the party line, it could not change after the election. One candidate said that Mr Clarke's views had been the only serious stumbling-block to the Tories fighting the election on a pledge to save the pound.

The Conservative manifesto holds to the agreed "wait-and-see" line, refusing to oppose Britain entering a single currency in advance of negotiations in which Mr Major wants to play a full role. On BBC Radio 4's *Today*, Mr Clarke was repeatedly asked about his own position in the

Conservative candidates had said in their election addresses that they were against Britain joining a single currency. Mr Clarke said they had also given a declaration that they supported government policy.

The Chancellor is understood to have strong private reservations about some aspects of the Tory campaign, particularly the use of the advertisement depicting Tony Blair sitting on the knee of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor.

Mr Clarke said the question of the 233 candidates was "a matter for whipping in the next Parliament". He added: "I am in tune with the Conservative manifesto. He had been attending Council of Finance Ministers meetings on a monthly basis, he said. "I can only say I am extremely glad that I didn't go to these negotiations with the whole thing cut and dried as far as the British are concerned before we went there. I wouldn't have had the considerable influence on discussions that, with all modesty, I think I have."

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In remarks that upset the Euros



# Hamilton under strain as safety slips away

Charles Bremner sees Martin Bell's effect on his rival's campaign smile

**DELIGHT** flashed on the faces of Christine and Neil Hamilton when they were doing their shopping yesterday morning. Joy Austin, a local voter, had accosted them while the MP's pugnacious wife, clad in a dazzling candy-striped blazer, was loading her trolley in a Knutsford supermarket. "We reckon you are ten out of ten," Mrs Austin said. "You have stood by your man."

The compliment was balm to the MP's spouse. "Do you know, I was described as the wife from hell" on the front page of the *Daily Mirror*, she exclaimed. "Actually, I call her Tatton's Tory machine. Mr Hamilton is struggling to keep up the campaign smile as he takes to the streets of Cheshire again. Two weeks since Mr Bell, a former BBC correspondent, bowled up to Tatton with his daughter and friends to wage what seemed a quixotic cause, his campaign is making an impact and Mr Hamilton, possessor of a 22,000 majority in 1992, finds himself the defender of a marginal seat.

Bells are showing a Bell lead and bookmakers are offering odds of five to six on both candidates. Support for the white-suited man from the Beeb is visible in his white campaign ribbons and the stark white posters in gardens, windows and cars, emblazoned simply with the name Bell in black.

Still absorbing his crash course in politics, Mr Bell, 58, is coming to terms with the idea that he might actually win. "It's beginning to occur to me that a political career which I thought would last 48 hours is maybe going to last four or five years," he said shaking his head as if in sorrow at the prospect of victory.

Evidence of Bell energy is his beehive of a campaign office. Some 30 volunteers were stuffing envelopes there yesterday and others were tapping at computers under the eyes of "Bell's Belles", the team of young female workers headed by Kate Jones, his agent, and Melissa, his 23-year-old daughter, who is managing the campaign.

Ms Jones, who is Mr Bell's book editor from London, acknowledged her inexperience. "It's a massive strain," she said. But they had been getting good advice and were borne along by the enthusiasm of an army of local volunteers.

One senior defector from the local Conservative organisation said the Bell campaign was "totally amateur" but that it did not matter because Mr Hamilton's standing, in his own party's opinion polls, was



Hamilton: turned safe seat into Tory marginal

my heavenly body," chipped in Mr Hamilton.

The moment in the vegetable aisle was relief for the parliamentary couple, whose 13 years in one of the safest Tory seats have fallen under the shadow of sleaze and are threatened by Martin Bell. The media circus has left town, giving the Hammonds what they say is their first chance to buy their groceries again and even joke about their notorious involvement with the shop owned by Mohamed Al Fayed. Chatting with a pensioner, the MP spotted a Harrods receipt in her hand. "I don't like your bag," he said.

Despite the rock-like support of the loyalists who run



Bell: now realises that a political career he expected to last 48 hours may continue for the next five years

## Ashdown starts whirlwind tour

### THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

PADDY Ashdown urged Liberal Democrats to "go for victory" last night as he prepared for a dramatic change of campaign pace that will take him to more than 30 of his party's key seats before polling day (Polly Newton writes).

Speaking at a rally in Edinburgh, Mr Ashdown drew inspiration from William Gladstone's Midlothian campaign 118 years ago, and from Liberal Prime Minister David Lloyd George's call to "build a country fit for heroes".

Mr Ashdown said the Liberal Democrats had already won the political argument during the campaign. "In the next seven days, it is time to win the seats. It is time to go for victory."

Mr Ashdown said it was the 1879 campaign in Midlothian which brought the Liberals back to power for Gladstone's second government. Gladstone left Liverpool for Scotland on November 24, and even before he crossed the border had spoken at several

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"disaster". As Mr Hamilton was finishing his shopping yesterday, Mr Bell, less diffident than before, was promising at a coffee morning in the true-blue town of Alderley Edge that he was "entirely motivated and ready to serve you".

He has just produced a manifesto, in which he declares himself on other issues than Mr Hamilton, voicing a mildly sceptical view of the EU and refusing to back a local campaign against a second runway at nearby Manchester airport.

These issues are side issues to a feud entirely about personality. Mr Bell, according to Mr Hamilton, is waging a "dishonest" campaign of "character assassination" against him.

They are fighting the dirtiest campaign I have ever seen in this country. It is all lies," he told a Bell sympathiser in a car park, apparently winning him over.

The fact that the former



Sophie Solomon, left, and Sophie Harrison check Martin Bell's election materials at his campaign office

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## BALLOT THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

### 18. Northern Ireland

# Struggle to solve an all-party problem

**M**illions of British citizens have had their lives disrupted and headlines have been grabbed during this election campaign because of one unresolved political problem. That problem has, however, scarcely featured in the speeches of potential Prime Ministers and impinged at only the margins of political debate. The problem is Northern Ireland.

Although Labour and the Conservatives go into this election pledged to uphold the majority's wish to remain in the United Kingdom, neither party is seriously trying to secure representation there. The field is left to a variety of parties that exist only in Northern Ireland, and one, Sinn Féin, that organises throughout Ireland. Although all the parties have policies on everything from health to fish farming, the dividing line between them is not left and right, but the border. Unionists want to keep it, and the link with the rest of the UK, nationalists want it to go.

Since the Conservative victory in 1979 the search for a political solution, that is a constitutional dispensation for Northern Ireland which will end the violence, has dominated government policy. As well as trying to design an assembly, the Tories have tried to develop links with Dublin. The notable legacy of this approach was the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985. Although all these initiatives were designed to undermine terrorism by showing that constitu-

tional politics could work, the republican campaign of violence has continued unabated.

The IRA has been fighting a "long war" in which it hoped to "stun" the British State sufficiently to encourage withdrawal. Throughout the Eighties the IRA increasingly switched to attacking economically significant mainland targets. Bombs such as those at Harrods and that at the Baltic Exchange in the City in 1992 were intended to send tremors through the British establishment and encourage international pressure on the Government to come to an accommodation with republicans.

In the late Eighties, provoked by republican violence, and fearing that their position was undermined by Anglo-Irish initiatives, loyalists within Unionist communities began to intensify their own terror campaign, killing Catholics in republican areas to create an atmosphere of fear and an appetite for peace within those communities. These factors combined in the early Nineties with the coming to power of new Prime Ministers in the Republic of Ireland and in the United Kingdom to create an environment propitious for a new peace initiative.

The diplomatic efforts seemed to have worked when, in August 1994, the IRA declared a ceasefire. Soon after, in October, the loyalists followed suit. Northern Ireland was at peace for the first time in 25 years. It was not to last.



Paramilitary shootings are just one symptom of an illness for which a cure has yet to be found

Indeed, it is difficult to see how it could have lasted. Republicans expected the ceasefire to lead quickly to all-party talks and a timetable for British withdrawal. Loyalists expected the Union's future to be assured. Their expectations were irreconcilable.

When entry to talks was delayed by demands from Unionists that paramilitaries give up

weapons before dialogue could begin, republican frustration grew. A commission set up by US Senator George Mitchell to examine how decommissioning might be reached to the satisfaction of all, suggested using elections to a peace forum as one bypass to talks. Republicans saw this not so much as a route round one obstacle as the erection of another. In February 1996, after 18 months, the IRA ended its ceasefire with a bomb in London's Docklands.

Since then the IRA has been responsible for a series of terrorist attacks, but hand-in-hand with this military strategy Sinn Féin leaders have pursued a political programme, arguing that the more votes the party gets the better placed it is to insist on entry to talks and also influence the IRA to call a ceasefire.

Republicans have said that talks in which they have not been involved have achieved little, and it is true that, despite agreement in some areas between the SDLP and the Ulster Unionists, the attempt to agree a method of government for Northern Ireland acceptable to Unionists and na-

tionalists has become bogged down in procedural detail.

In an effort to break the deadlock Mo Mowlam, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, suggested earlier this month that another IRA ceasefire could see Sinn Féin in talks by June. She was chided for her words by Tory ministers and left exposed as being irrelevant to the IRA's appearance to respond by escalating its campaign, but her attempt to entice republicans into laying down their weapons was little different from past offers made by British and Irish ministers.

The tangled history of talks aside, Northern Ireland has, like the rest of the United Kingdom, enjoyed gently rising prosperity over the past 18 years. While violence has been a brake on investment, successive secretaries of state have intervened vigorously to attract and maintain employment.

Northern Ireland's level of unemployment, at about 11 per cent, is above the UK average but not perilously so. During the ceasefire, inward investment reached record levels, with £432 million pledged and 4,689 jobs

created. Since then, investment has slowed but not evaporated.

Northern Ireland, partly for security reasons and partly because of Troubles-related poverty, enjoys the highest level of per capita public spending within the UK, approximately one third higher than elsewhere. Housing has been improved, with the number of homes officially unfit for occupation cut by one third. Some of the UK's best social housing is in Northern Ireland and home ownership has risen from 52 to 66 per cent since 1979. Education remains predominantly segregated and selective, entrenching sectarian outlooks but yielding impressive academic results. The hospitals, for tragically obvious reasons, are some of Britain's finest.

Both main British political parties are committed to a joint approach to Northern Ireland. Although they differ on detail, Labour has so far refrained from explicit criticism of the Conservatives. Labour hopes that the Tories will extend it the same leeway if it gains office.

Tests will come early. July will see the high point of the Unionist marching season, the bitterly contested exercise in asserting Unionist identity by ceremonial walks along traditional routes. For the past two years, nationalists in Portadown have objected to a Protestant march through their housing estate. Last year the marchers were penned behind wire for four days before a campaign of wider civil disobedience culminated in them being allowed to march. When it did, nationalist objectors had to be beaten back.

The event was seen, as so many events are in Northern Ireland, to have great symbolic significance — proof that the British State would always bow to Unionist muscle. Others came to a more sombre conclusion: that violence, or the threat of violence, secures concessions in Northern Ireland. As long as that perception continues, then so will the Troubles. Moving away from that dismal vision will be a pressing task for the next government, not just for the people of Northern Ireland who have suffered so much, but also for the health of the entire United Kingdom.

#### CONSERVATIVES



The Ulster peace process absorbed a great deal of the energy of both the retiring Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, and John Major. Painstaking negotiators, they tried to balance offence to Unionist and nationalist sensibilities. The IRA ceasefire brought benefits to Ulster and its collapse, as well as a dwindling majority, has inclined the Tories to a stance slightly more sympathetic to Unionist concerns. A re-elected Tory government would not, however, allow that significantly to impede moves that could secure a credible ceasefire. A Tory opposition might assume an even more Unionist posture.

#### LABOUR



Labour, under its Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, has moved away from its traditional nationalist stance of Irish "unity by consent" and now supports bipartite rule that Ulster's future should be decided by its people alone and the Government intends only to defend the democratic majority's decision. Labour has been critical of the Government's indulgent approach to Orange marches, and is likely to be more pro-active in anti-discrimination policies. May also show its openness to talk after an IRA ceasefire with gestures to the republican community such as an apology for Bloody Sunday.

#### SDLP

The Social Democratic and Labour Party is moderately nationalist and led by John Hume. It is dedicated to non-violence and aspires to Irish unity. Will consider an assembly but only in context of cross-border bodies. Refused pact with Sinn Féin to evict Unionist MPs but Hume believes in talks with Gerry Adams to secure IRA ceasefire. SDLP is pro-European and left of centre.

#### DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST

Ulster's most hardline Unionist party, led by the Rev Ian Paisley. It grew out of a split in Unionism in the Seventies and has its strongest following among urban presbyterians and small farmers. Broadly left-wing and populist on social issues, and fiercely Eurosceptic, the DUP is happy to consider power-sharing within Ulster but consider formal links with Dublin anathema.

#### SINN FEIN

A republican socialist party that believes in political and armed struggle to replace the regimes in London and Dublin. Its immediate goal is entry to all-party talks without preconditions as a prelude to negotiating the detaching of Ulster from the UK. Sinn Féin MPs will not sit in the Commons but would travel to Westminster to lobby. Broadly Marxist on social and economic issues.

#### ULSTER UNIONIST

Ulster's largest party, led by David Trimble. Committed to maintaining Ulster's position within the UK but keen to see a form of administrative devolution. Prepared to consider better relations with Dublin in a new Council of the British Isles. Trying hard to appear unsectarian by promoting Catholic members. Conservative on social and economic issues. Solidly Eurosceptic.

#### UK UNIONIST

A new Unionist party organised around the winner of the 1993 North Down by-election, Robert McCartney. Founded to offer a home for unambiguously pro-Union voters put off by the sectarian associations of the other major parties. Wants to see Ulster better integrated within the UK and elections contested on secular and socio-economic grounds. Left-wing on social and economic issues.

#### ALLIANCE PARTY

Moderate and non-sectarian party dedicated to power-sharing and dialogue and led by Lord Alderdice. Emerged from split in Unionism in the Seventies. Broadly supports the Union, but believes more must be done to make it acceptable to nationalists. Allied with the Lib Dems, the party takes a centrist position on most socio-economic issues and is enthusiastically pro-European.

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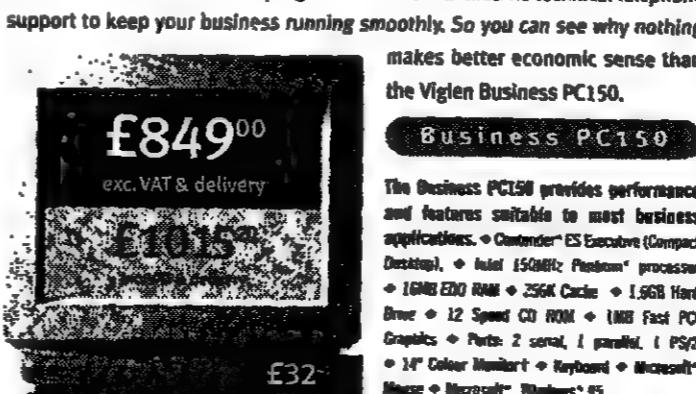
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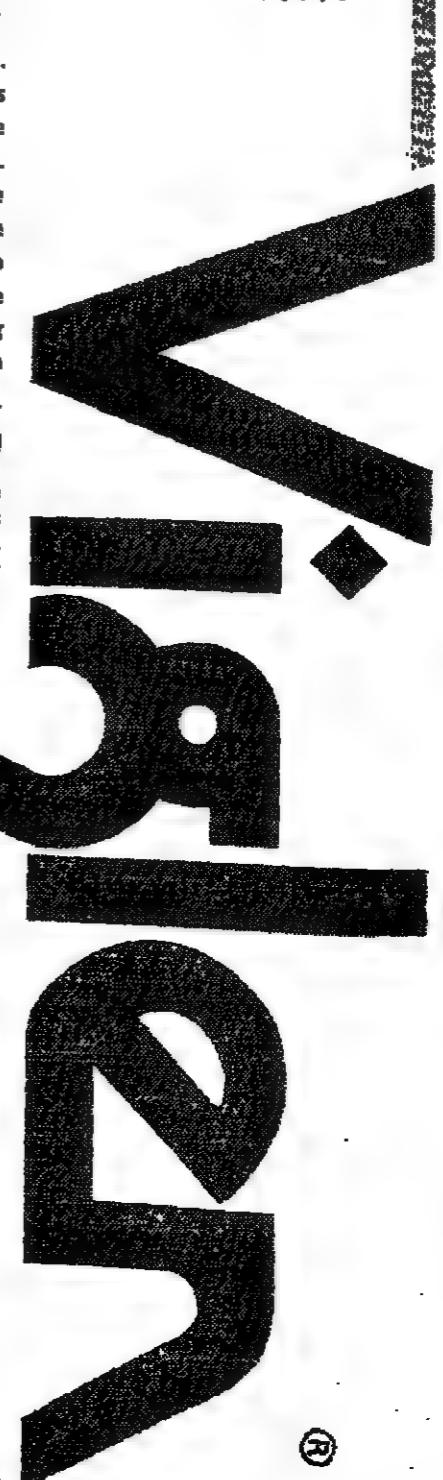
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Scargill has found a rich seam of old Labour sentiment in South Wales, Valerie Elliott writes

## King Arthur rides south for joust with turncoat

IT IS most unusual to see Arthur Scargill without loudhailer, placard or minders. It is even more unnerving to see him surrounded by grannies, gentle souls and pacifists who seem to make up the vanguard of his personal campaign against Tory-turned-Labour Alan Howarth for Newport East.

The familiar scowl has been replaced by an almost permanent smile. For the astonishing news from the South Wales battlefield is the reception being given to the king of coal. Rumour has it that one of the country's best-known Yorkshiremen is house-hunting in the area.

Even in Cadoxton, a desirable commuter town for Bristol, Cardiff or Newport – it won the best kept town in Britain award two years ago and is miles from a coalpit – people were queuing up to shake his hand and to claim a Socialist Labour poster.

There is no doubt with Cadoxton behaving in such a remarkable fashion that the



Tony Blair welcoming Alan Howarth at the House of Commons after his defection from the Tory party

gloves are truly off in Newport East between old and new Labour. Traditional Labour voters yesterday seemed to be distinctly unimpressed by the man they refer to as a 'Tory turncoat'. Alan Howarth, former Tory minister, won the selection for the safe Labour seat vacated by Roy Hughes. It is claimed that Mr Hughes was offered a peerage to make way for the new Labour convert.

Campaigners for a ban on the possession of handguns have urged the public not to vote Conservative. The Gun Control Network said that the Tories had the worst record on opposing a handgun ban and that only 6 per cent of their candidates had responded to a questionnaire on tighter firearms laws, compared with 30 per cent for Labour and Liberal Democrats, and 35 per cent of SNP and Plaid Cymru candidates.

It found that 29 per cent of Tories who responded supported a total ban, compared with 100 per cent of SNP, 97 per cent Labour, 93 per cent Plaid Cymru, and 96 per cent Liberal Democrats.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said later that the Tories had given the country some of the toughest gun laws in the world.

### Changing sides

The daughter of Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Tory Prime Minister 1963-64, has disclosed that she intends to vote Liberal Democrat. Lady Meriel Darby, 57, has been a lifelong Tory supporter but has decided to switch sides since her father's death 18 months ago. She said that Lib Dem policies on the environment had won her vote.

### 65-seat victory

A 65-seat majority for Labour has been predicted by Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher of the Local Government Chronicle Elections Centre at Plymouth University. Their forecast is based on a survey of 20,000 votes cast in 12 local government by-elections since March 17, when John Major called for a dissolution of Parliament.

### Lamont apology

Norman Lamont accepted a public apology over a report in *The Yorkshire Evening Press* that he was one of a number of MPs accused of taking "cash sweeteners". Mr Lamont, the Conservative candidate for Harrogate, also received an apology at the High Court from Harrogate Liberal Democrats, who used the story in a leaflet.

### Action men

The manufacturers of Action Man have dressed the dolls to look like the leaders of the political parties. Two models of each doll have been made and will be auctioned as a set for charity. Apart from the three main party leaders there are versions of Screaming Lord Sutch and Sir James Goldsmith, and a Sindy doll Cherie Blair.

### ELECTION TRAIL

**Conservatives:** Gillian Shephard, Peter Lilley in the West; Ian Lang, Kenneth Clarke in Scotland, Virginia Bottomley in the South, Stephen Dorrell, Michael Heseltine in the Midlands, Michael Portillo in the East, William Hague in Wales.  
**Labour:** Jack Straw in Birmingham, John Prescott in Scotland, Barbara Roche in the North, Chris Smith, Donald Dewar in the North West, Gavin Strang in Wales, Margaret Beckett, Robin Cook in the South East. Harriet

call him in the pit Arthur – a blackleg."

The miners' leader and president of the Socialist Labour Party replied: "That's why I'm wearing red."

His smile was in danger of becoming a rather self-satisfied grin. But even Arthur Scargill was startled by the spontaneous displays of support. Indeed, he was clearly so overwhelmed that he broke an official vow not to speak to *The Times*. "This is exactly the reaction we are getting everywhere. It is pleasantly surprising but I knew feelings would be running high here."

He believes he is on very strong ground in bringing this personal battle to Newport. "It wasn't for Howarth I wouldn't be here. I have no time for Tory defectors. Leopards never change their spots. He's still a right-wing Tory. I was arrested twice here in the early Eighties trying to save the steelworks. What was Howarth doing? Voting to get rid of steel jobs here. He's also privatised water and gas and



Arthur Scargill in Cadoxton, South Wales, yesterday during his personal crusade against Mr Howarth

he's in favour of privileged education."

Mr Howarth has lost no time in establishing a base in Newport East, where he is defending a 9,899 Labour majority.

Yesterday Patricia Con-

stant, his secretary, said: "We think it is going very well indeed. As for a debate with Mr Scargill, well, he has not been in touch with our office. We did have a request from the Tory David Evans for one date, but Alan was busy."

Mr Scargill is determined that voters in Newport East will know the record of the official Labour candidate.

Mr Scargill's vitriolic attack on him in yesterday's edition of *Tribune* may be a taste of what is to come. In the article

he said: "New Labour has become Thatcherism's last best hope... what choice does this leave millions of voters who utterly despise old Conservatives. Howarth included, for their many crimes over the last 18 years?"

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## Russians have a bone to pick over dinosaur remains in Britain

FROM RICHARD BEENTON  
IN MOSCOW

THE normally respectable world of palaeontology has been split by a dispute between Russian and British scientists for custody of a unique collection of Jurassic-era dinosaur remains.

The Moscow Palaeontological Institute yesterday accused Bristol University of "borrowing" nine samples of pterosaurs flying reptiles and refusing to return them to their Russian owners.

The row, which has echoes of a similar dispute in America over a collection of tsarist treasures now in Washington, has

led to accusations on both sides that scientists want to use the valuable dinosaur remains for financial profit.

Igor Novikov, the deputy director of the institute, said that the collection was loaned to Bristol in 1993 under a one-year study arrangement that was extended by another year. "At the end of this period we requested that the collection be returned to its home in Moscow, but Bristol has repeatedly ignored our numerous requests," he said. "It has become increasingly clear that the university wants to hold on to the collection as long as possible to maintain its funding from public and private grants." But Don

Carleton, the Bristol University spokesman, dismissed the allegations as nonsense. He said that the pterosaurs specimens were borrowed from Moscow under a collaborative project sponsored by the Royal Society and with the co-operation of the Russians.

We did borrow the specimens for scientific research in collaboration with the Russians whose scientists are here in Bristol working on this project as I speak," he said. "The work has been extended but we expect it to be completed within a year. When the research is finished, everything will be returned to Russia." Dr David Unwin, a Royal

Society research fellow who set up the collaborative Anglo-Russian project, insisted that the agreement with Moscow was "open-ended", but hinted that the collection would be far better off remaining outside Russia for the time being.

The Moscow Palaeontological Institute, once a prestigious part of the Soviet scientific establishment, has been hit by Russia's economic turmoils and valuable dinosaur remains have been stolen and sold on the black market. Three years ago, a 245-million-year-old dinosaur skull was stolen from the museum, sold to a German fossil collector for £500 and resurfaced in the State Museum for

Natural History in Stuttgart. It was returned to Moscow after Interpol traced its whereabouts. The collection in Bristol is particularly rare because few of the delicate bones of flying reptiles have been recovered intact.

Dr Unwin, who spent two years working in Moscow at the institute, said that the Stuttgart case was not isolated. He maintained that the illicit traffic in dinosaur fossils was still going on and that he has traced missing exhibits to collectors in Japan.

"They [the directors] make their money by selling their collections to rather nefarious individuals," Dr Unwin told

the *Moscow Times*. "For the last few years a very dirty trade has been going on with the directors of the institute selling the museum's collections to fossil collectors."

Mr Novikov said that he was "deeply insulted" by the allegations. "Like any museum we have problems of funding and theft. When items go missing we report them to the police, and in the case the stolen property was returned."

For the time being, the institute in Moscow is not considering legal action to get its property back but will continue to appeal to the authorities in Bristol to return the collection.

## Ex-Soviet states and China sign deal on frontier troop cuts

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

THE Presidents of Russia, China and the Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan signed an agreement in Moscow yesterday to limit troop levels in their border regions.

The deal is designed to create a zone of stability along the 4,500-mile former Sino-Soviet frontier. It marks a significant improvement in relations between China and its neighbours since the break-up of the Soviet Union brought an end to the rivalries between the world's biggest communist powers. Rapprochement between Moscow and Beijing was already underway in the perestroika era of Mikhail Gorbachev in the late 1980s, after a period of hostility that came to a head with border clashes in 1969.

At the signing ceremony in the Kremlin, after talks with President Jiang Zemin of China, President Yeltsin said that the agreement would boost mutual confidence between the five countries and he expressed the hope that other countries in the Asia-Pacific region would follow its example. The ceremony was also attended by President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, President Akayev of Kyrgyzstan, and President Rahmonov of Tajikistan.

The agreement sets a strict limit on the number of ground troops, tactical air force and anti-aircraft personnel deployed by all the countries

concerned in a 60-mile zone either side of China's border with the former Soviet republics. But it does not cover strategic air defence or rocket forces.

According to Russian defence sources, the accord provides for Russia and the Central Asian republics to keep 3,900 tanks in the border zone, all but 100 of these being provided by Russia. China would also be allowed the same number.

But the sources, quoted by Interfax news agency, said that the agreement would not involve troop withdrawals on the Russian side, as the permitted numbers already exceed the forces deployed in a Cabinet reshuffle last month. Yesterday he increased Mr Nemtsov's powers by appointing him Fuel and Energy Minister in addition to his other posts.

■ **Aide move:** Russia formally applied yesterday to Polish authorities for the extradition of a former adviser to President Yeltsin wanted on suspicion of corruption. Sergei Stankevich, a former Deputy Mayor of Moscow, was arrested in Warsaw last week during routine traffic control.

Mr Stankevich, who allegedly pocketed \$6 million in 1992 for authorising a classical concert and ballet in Red Square, fled to America in 1995. It was not clear what he was doing in Warsaw, Poland and Russia have a convention on judicial assistance. (AFP)

In a separate development, Mr Yeltsin yesterday appealed to young Russians to take a more active role in the country's political life. In his weekly radio address to the nation, the President took Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, to task for failing to bring more young people into



Presidents Akayev, left, Nazarbayev, Jiang Zemin, Yeltsin and Rakhmonov at the Kremlin yesterday

## Kremlin spies break Cold War record

**Frankfurt:** There are more Russian spies operating in Germany now than during the Cold War, according to a government report unveiled in Bonn last night (Deborah Collett writes).

Germany attracts more agents than any other European country and experts estimate that the actual number of Russian moles "probably stretches into the thousands", said a senior counter-intelligence officer.

In a report by the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, secret service officers concluded that Moscow's spies were operating more openly than ever before but their targets had changed since the fall of communism. "Before they were mainly engaged in observing and monitoring military developments, now

they are interested in German telecommunication technology and in the computers we use," said a spokesman.

"The spies are required to deliver both files and information so that their country can keep abreast of all the latest technological advances in the West." Further fields of interest are Nato's expansion to the east, Bonn's Eastern bloc policy and the Middle East peace process.

According to the report, President Yeltsin is said to have personally ordered the extra deployment of spies to Germany and other West European countries, though this has been strongly denied by Moscow. The report claims that Moscow is now at the centre of the spying operation and all agents are recruited, rigorously trained, dispatched and monitored from there. German intelligence officers believe that personal contact is kept to a minimum and the moles receive their information and orders via coded short-wave radio messages. Highly sensitive material, money and support information are delivered to disguised hiding places.

The intelligence service has established that ethnic Germans living in Russia and high-ranking former KGB staff are favoured for operations in Germany. It has also identified a rise in the number of relatives of staff on Moscow's secret service team - working at the Russian Embassy in Bonn and holding diplomatic posts here. Spies are infiltrating industry in the guise of trainees and managers in German businesses.

## Protests as Serbs jail Bosnian Muslims

FROM REUTER  
IN SARAJEVO

A BOSNIAN SERB court jailed seven Bosnian Muslims yesterday after a murder trial which the international community labelled a "travesty" and a "farce".

Despite international criticism, the court in Zvornik imposed 20-year jail terms on three men accused of murdering four Serbs and sentenced the other four to one year each for illegal possession of firearms.

The court denied the defendants the right to be represented by lawyers from the Muslim-Croat Federation and appointed Serb lawyers who had just five minutes to present their defense. The court stopped short of passing death penalties the prosecution had demanded.

The Muslims claimed to be survivors of wartime massacres in the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica. The trial failed to produce conclusive evidence that the seven were guilty of the crimes they were charged with, a UN spokesman said.

■ Zagreb: A Croatian court found General Miroslav Perisic, the Yugoslav Army's Chief of Staff, guilty of war crimes yesterday for shelling a Croatian town in 1991 and sentenced him in absentia to 20 years' prison.

The general was one of 19 army officers tried in absentia this week. Five other ex-officers were given 20 years in prison. The rest were given terms ranging from ten to 14 years. They were accused of shelling the coastal town of Zadar in 1991. (AFP)

## Prison for anti-Jewish skinheads

FROM ADAM SAGE  
IN PARIS

FOUR skinheads were yesterday imprisoned after being found guilty of desecrating tombs at a Jewish cemetery in southern France. Olivier Fimby, 29, and Patrick Laonegro, 31, were jailed for two years, and Bertrand Nouzeau, 29, and Yanick Garaier, 27, for 20 months.

The judgment in Marseille closed one of the most highly charged affairs in recent French history. It has given rise to seven years of outrage, demonstrations and political intrigue.

When the Jewish community in Carpentras found the body of Félix Germon exhumed and 34 other tombs damaged at its local cemetery in May 1990, France reacted with horror.

The ghost of the Vichy regime, which collaborated with the Nazis during the Second World War, hung over the country. The late President Mitterrand led several thousand on a protest march targeted at the extreme-right National Front.

Although two years is the maximum sentence for desecration under French law, members of the Jewish community were last night angry at the lenient sentence given to the four defendants, saying it is a light sentence for one of the most shocking French crimes this decade.

## Businessmen attack German parties for tax talks deadlock

FROM DEBORAH COLLCUTT IN FRANKFURT

THE leaders of the German Government and Opposition have been bitterly criticised by industrialists and economists for the collapse of cross-party talks on reforms to the complex tax system which may have to be delayed for a year.

The Christian Democrat and Free Democrat coalition and the opposition Social Democrats were accused of jeopardising economic recovery by political intransigence. The failure to reach agreement has prompted analysts to question Bonn's ability to contain borrowing to qualify for the start of economic and monetary union in 1999.

President Herzog made a rare political intervention yesterday and appealed to the

## Vatican's blessing on 'no sex' gays

FROM RICHARD OWEN  
IN ROME

HOMOSEXUALS can be good Roman Catholics and even candidates for sainthood, provided they repent and opt for "friendship" rather than engaging in sex, according to the Vatican.

The statement, which marks a softening in the Vatican line, came in an article by Jean Louis Brugues, a leading theologian, in *l'Observateur Romano*, the Vatican newspaper. "In the Vatican's terms this is an overt to lesbians and gays," said *La Repubblica*.

"It amounts to saying that, if they repent, refrain from making love, mortify the temptations of the flesh and pray, contrite homosexuals will after all be gathered into the Kingdom of Heaven."

Vatican officials said homosexuality was still regarded by the hierarchy as a "disorder". But despite the conservative views of the Pope, there are signs of a liberal wind blowing. Last month a new Vatican handbook for priests said couples who admitted in the confessional they had used contraceptives should be treated with "mercy, discretion and respect".

*La Repubblica* spoke of a "slap in the face of Europe". It said Brussels clearly did not have faith in the efforts of the centre-left Government to cut the budget deficit since it took office nearly a year ago.

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politicians to help to reduce unemployment, currently at a postwar record 4.48 million.

"We must act now instead of just talking," he said, after the talks on a plan by Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, to cut €15 billion in taxes.

The Chamber of Industry and Commerce called the breakdown in talks a "shock for the investment economy" and the daily business newspaper *Handelsblatt* said:

"The going-on in Bonn will frighten off all foreign investors; it is proof again of the country's inability to reform itself." Dieter Vesper, of a leading German economic institute, said it was "poison for the economy" and cast doubt on the Government's ability to meet its 1997 growth forecast of 2.5 per cent.

■ Rome: Italy was yesterday smirking from a blow to its national pride after the European Commission's assessment that the Italian economy will fail to meet the criteria for membership of the single currency in 1999 (Richard Owen writes).

*La Repubblica* spoke of a "slap in the face of Europe". It said Brussels clearly did not have faith in the efforts of the centre-left Government to cut the budget deficit since it took office nearly a year ago.

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## McVeigh 'wanted to see blood on streets of US'

**TIMOTHY McVEIGH** blew up a federal building in Oklahoma City to show his hatred for the Government and see "blood flow on the streets of America", a Denver jury heard yesterday.

In his opening statement, Joseph Hartzler, the chief prosecution lawyer, said: "The truck was there to impose the will of Timothy McVeigh on the rest of America and to do so... by murdering innocent men, women and children in hopes of seeing blood flow on the streets of America... they were in a building owned by a government that Timothy McVeigh so hated that with premeditated intent... he chose to take their innocent lives."

Mr Hartzler said he would later produce evidence that would enable the jury to "know the twisted motive behind this deadly offence".

The opening arguments in the trial of Mr McVeigh, 29, accused of the worst terrorist attack in American history, were to be followed by videotape of the explosion at 9.02am on April 19, 1995. Testimony by prosecution witnesses yesterday was expected to give detailed descriptions of injuries to more than 500 people sprayed by debris and post-mortem examinations carried out on the 168 dead, including 19 children.

Earlier, survivors and relatives of the dead were warned that testimony would include the most graphic and chilling evidence of the crime. Pres-

The prosecution hopes that presenting lurid details of the Oklahoma bombing will compensate for the gaps in its case. Tom Rhodes reports from Denver



McVeigh: withdrew to murky world of militias

sure on the prosecution to obtain the conviction of Mr McVeigh and Terry Nichols, 42, to be tried later, has mounted since the start of jury selection this month.

With a jury finally in place and evidence ready for presentation yesterday, opinion polls suggest that at least 83 per cent of Americans believe Mr McVeigh is guilty. But the burden on the prosecution has grown heavier by the day.

Months ago, the Govern-

ment decided it had no witness who could place Mr McVeigh in Oklahoma City on the day of the bombing. Many local people say they saw more than one person and more than one yellow rental van, the vehicle used to transport 2,000lb of fertiliser to the site.

Last week, the Justice Department released a damning report about the FBI forensic laboratory which specifically criticised work done at the bombed Alfred P. Murrah federal building in Oklahoma. The strategy of the Government is therefore to shock the jury with the weight of the evidence before focusing on Mr McVeigh's motives.

Disaffected with the United States Army after the Gulf War and his failure to join the elite Green Berets, he withdrew into the murky world of militias and guns in Michigan and Arizona. Prosecution lawyers will claim that the bombing was in retaliation for the 50 adults and 25 children killed on the final day of the stand-off between government agents and the Branch Davidian cult in Waco, Texas, two years to the day before the Oklahoma bombing.

They are also expected to allege that the attack was made on a fictional incident described in a white supremacist novel, *The Turner Diaries*, a book Mr McVeigh allegedly sold at gun shows and a copy of which was found in his car when he was arrested outside Oklahoma City 90 minutes after the explosion.

It is believed that Jennifer McVeigh, the defendant's sister, will testify that her brother saw the book as a means of retaliation against the Government after Waco. In the coming weeks, Mr Hartzler and his team will also present the testimony of some 20,000 witnesses, the FBI studies of 500 hours of videotape and the conclusion of a 22-month investigation.

The physical evidence against Mr McVeigh, including explosive residue found on his clothes and fingerprints discovered on a receipt for the purchase of forty 50lb bags of ammonium nitrate fertiliser, appears overwhelming.

Coupled with the testimony of Michael Fortier, an army colleague who claims he "cashed the joint" with Mr McVeigh in late 1994, and the publication of numerous alleged confessions by the defendant, the prosecution is hoping to defy defence allegations of a wider conspiracy and forensic incompetence by the FBI. Linda Jones, a British forensic and explosives expert who has worked on numerous IRA bombings, is expected to provide a critical independent analysis of the FBI data to prove its validity.

But the case for the prosecution cannot rest easily. The Government is seeking the death penalty against Mr McVeigh for the murders of four Secret Service Agents; a Drug Enforcement Administration agent, an employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and two Customs Service agents.

In recent months, Stephen Jones, the chief defence lawyer, has woven an intricate tapestry of conspiracy around the case, alleging the involvement of the IRA, the Iraqi Government and two white supremacists, Andreas Strasser, German, and Dennis Mahon, former leader of the White Aryan Resistance. Mr Jones will claim that Mr McVeigh was only tangentially associated with the crime, if at all.



The 1,600-year-old carving of Buddha, which Afghan hardliners want to destroy

## Buddhists condemn Taliban over threat to blow up statue

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Buddhist world is outraged at a threat by Taliban, the extremist Islamic militia in Afghanistan, to blow up a 1,600-year-old statue of the Buddha carved out of a sandstone cliff on the ancient Silk Route.

The statue, Afghanistan's greatest archaeological treasure, is protected by a rival Shi'ite Muslim faction that controls the site in the Bamyan Valley, at the heart of the Hindu Kush mountains in central Afghanistan. A Taliban commander said that

if he captured the area he would destroy the 180ft monument, the world's tallest carving of the Buddha in a standing pose. Another smaller statue of the Buddha, carved about the same time, is also threatened.

The carvings were a tourist and pilgrimage site before the start of civil war in the 1970s. Chinese pilgrims reported as late as the 8th century an "abundance" of priests and temples in the Bamyan Valley, before Islam became the dominant faith. The Bamyan

site was constructed by missionaries and pilgrims during a revival of Buddhism in India in the 3rd and 4th centuries.

Sri Lanka said destruction of the site would be a "treacherous act" from which the entire Buddhist world would suffer. The state-owned Daily News quoted Lakshman Jayakody, the Cultural and Religious Affairs Minister, as saying: "I hope sanity will prevail." Hindu organisations in India have also expressed shock.

## Judge in cowboy boots will keep tight rein on his court



Matsch: tyrannical

Denver: He sees himself as a hybrid of Napoleon and General Patton and has made it clear who will be the master of his Denver courtroom throughout the trials of those accused in America's worst act of terrorism (Tom Rhodes writes). Judge Richard Matsch, however, is also considered one of the best trial lawyers in the United States.

This tough but traditional Western lawman yesterday took centre stage in the trial of Timothy McVeigh. A diminutive figure with bushy moustache peering from his pallid face, Mr Matsch, 67, has

made no secret of his intent since he first stalked into the wood-panelled court robed and wearing the cowboy boots that have become a personal trademark. He removed the Seal of the United States and all other symbols of government that might offer echoes of the Alfred P. Murrah building, devastated on April 19, 1995. He is one of only 13 out of 300 judges in America described as "tyrannical" in the Almanac of the Federal Judiciary.

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## THE SUNDAY TIMES WALKING BACK TO HAPPINESS BUT WILL IT BE EASY STREET OR DOWNING STREET?



READ LESLEY WHITE'S IN-DEPTH PROFILE OF JOHN MAJOR IN THE MAGAZINE THIS WEEKEND

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## Cult leader 'tried to halt gas attack'

Tokyo: The trial of Shoko Asahara, leader of the Aum Shinrikyo cult, veered into farce yesterday when he gave evidence in broken English and rambled about the outbreak of the Third World War (Robert Whymant writes).

Mr Asahara said that he tried to talk two disciples out of staging the sarin attack on the Tokyo underground on March 20, 1995, in which 12 people died.

### Algerians killed

Paris: Muslim terrorists hacked to death 42 people, including 17 women and three babies, this week in the latest of a series of massacres in the village of Omaria, south of Algiers.

### Sofia choice

Sofia: The anti-Communist coalition that triumphed in last week's election named its leader, Ivan Kostov, to be Prime Minister and to tackle Bulgaria's chronic economic and crime problems. (AP)

### Transplant hope

Tokyo: The lower house of parliament passed a Bill that will let heart patients receive transplants. Until now, the only hope for people suffering potentially fatal conditions has been to go abroad. (AP)

### Strikers injured

Lille: Four Renault workers were injured when strikers from the doomed Vltooride plant in Belgium clashed with police here. About 300 workers had come to see to Pierre Mauroy, the Mayor. (Reuters)

### Belgian quizzed

Brussels: Belgian police were questioning a man over a series of murders in which the severed remains of up to six women, wrapped in bin bags, were found scattered in the southern city of Mons.

### SS charges kept

Rome: A court refused a request by the city's Jews for charges against Erich Priebke, the former SS officer, to be changed to genocide over the massacre in 1944 of 335 civilians. (AP)

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**I**t's not every day that you find yourself sharing a table with a scissor-toothed Chinese fighting dog chewing on a lean, ground turkey Wrangler Roundup at \$2.25 (£1.40) recycled cardboard plate included. Then again, the Park Bench Cafe in Huntington Beach is not everyone's idea of what constitutes "fine dining".

Here, where the breakers of the eastern Pacific tickle the beaches of southern California, cults may come and go but the culture of pampering endures — for dogs as it does for men.

The Park Bench is a canine Quaglinos; the first restaurant in America to have a separate menu for dogs. Despite Johnny-come-lately rivals on both coasts, it is still the place in the New World for the gourmet pooch to be and be seen.

For human gastronomes, this tin-roofed shack an hour south of Los Angeles is nothing to write home about, but it is assuredly lively. By the time my companion and I had ordered brunch, old scissor-teeth had been hounded from his meal by Slash, an American pit bull, and our table had been all but pulled from under us by a doberman called Buddy.

chasing a husky called Frank. "Any dog is either mean or good," said Slash's owner from behind wrap-around, dark glasses, reining in his sleek eating machine and explaining that pit bulls just have "deeper emotions" than other dogs. Buddy's problem was finding Frank unendurably sexy while being tied to the table leg without knowing it.

Pepper, by contrast, was a picture of composure. A good thing, this. She was also my date. From the "canine cuisine" menu, my borrowed but very demure miniature Australian shepherd chose a Hot Diggity Dog plain, all-beef hot dog without the bun, cut up in "doggie-bite size", for \$1.25.

The waitress in the Bone Appetit T-shirt actually chose for her, explaining that simplest was best on any dog's first visit. But Pepper did sit up straight, commendably ignoring the feral hot pollio. She did not flit or leave crumbs, and did not complain when I read the

paper instead of holding a proper conversation.

Anyone bothered by the gruesome parody of the Californian good life recently enacted by 39 suicidal cult members in northern San Diego should come to Park Bench in Huntington Beach for reassurance that the real thing is not dead.

Huntington Beach is everything California ever stood for: girls in bikinis in midwinter, boys in shades the better to ogle them, and cheap terracotta-coloured real estate stretching to the sea.

It is fitting that here the Golden State's obsession with creature comforts should have gone, as the followers of cult leader Marshall

Applewhite might have said, beyond human. Besides the Wrangler Roundup and the HotDiggity Dog, the canine menu features Hound Dog Heaven (a bunless burger at \$1.85), a side of bacon

(four rashers, \$1.85) and Chilly Paws (one scoop of vanilla ice cream for 95 cents).

There is also the option of a poochie party. For less per dog than you would spend on one decent cappuccino in Beverly Hills, Fido and friends can celebrate their birthdays at the Park Bench (or at home, with catering trucked in), feasting on beef jerky, a choice of main course from the main menu and, for pudding, a personalised birthday cake or Chilly Paws all round. Beverage or

Mei Ling, the Chinese fighting dog across the table, showed just how far she had come from

making do with scraps by moving on to her owner's tuna sandwich once Slash had put her off her turkey. "She needs to brush up on her table manners," a doting Sherry Bowles acknowledged as the sandwich was dismantled with a ferocity worthy of the Boxer Rebellion. "I think it's the tomatoes and pickles she's not so keen on."

It has to be. With lawsuits at two a penny, and a morbid fear of anything less than hospital-style hygiene in restaurants, state officials routinely shut down eateries at the slightest whiff of ageing lettuce. At the Park Bench, therefore, dogs may sit up to choose but must eat on the ground, on a leash, out of bowls provided. No picnics are allowed.

Buddy makes a final lunge for Frank. Pepper sighs and Mei Ling slumps into post-prandial torpor. As these privileged gourmands fall silent, Sherry Bowles picks at her pickles and swears that she once had a date with John Lennon in New York. He taught her all she knows about living in "the alpha state", she says. Oh, California.



Taste test: Pepper and Giles study the menu

# The generation Gap

She's a billionaire's daughter who can shop anywhere yet Jemima Khan is hooked on BabyGap, says Style Editor Grace Bradberry

**N**o matter how serious Jemima Khan's intentions, she is doomed to make fashion statements wherever she goes. First she married Imran Khan, immersed herself in Islamic culture, and started a trend for shalwar kameez. Now she has taken to the streets of Kingston upon Thames in an effort to preserve British sovereignty — she was campaigning for her father's Referendum Party — and has confirmed the supremacy of BabyGap.

As he hit the hustings on Wednesday, Sulaiman, grandson of a billionaire, wore socks (£2.50), collegiate-style sweatshirt (£14), matching fleece cardigan (£16) and tracksuit bottoms (£10), all from BabyGap.

Whatever the voters thought of Mrs Khan appearing on their doorsteps, dozens of babies will have immediately recognised her son as one of them. As television presenter Emma Forbes says: "It's great because it's classless. Everyone can afford a few items." Even before daughter Lily, five months, was born, Emma had begun shopping there. "My sister told me I had to get in there before all the socks had sold out — they change every few weeks." Like Sulaiman, who was just weeks old when he wore a BabyGap suit on the cover of  *Tatler*, Lily has worn the label from birth.

In many ways, we should applaud the trend: The American label is one of the great levellers among middle-class mothers, uniting those who wore smocking and sailor suits with those whose earliest photographs feature pink towelling from Mothercare.

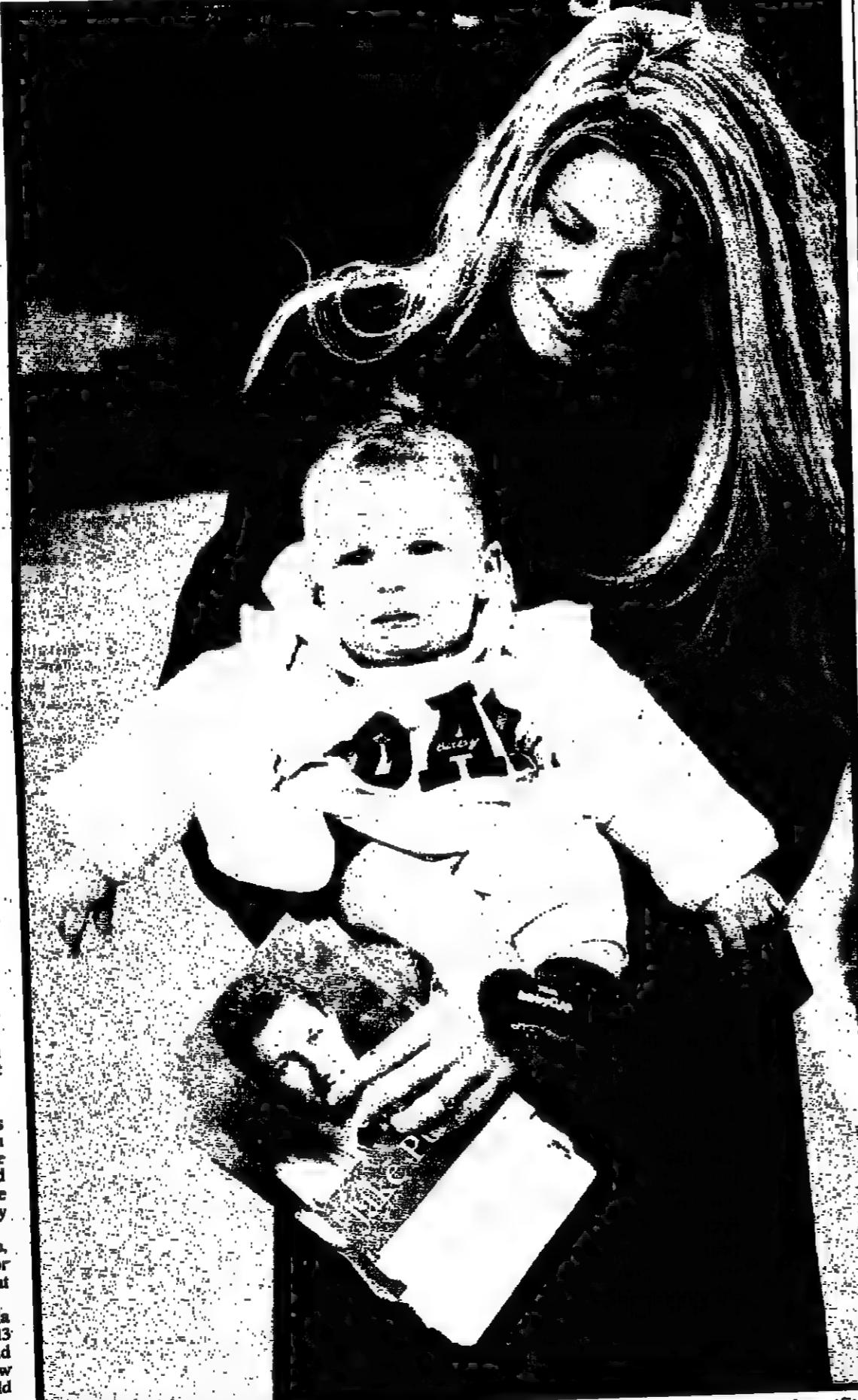
The cool, sportswear-influenced styles — miniature versions of the more expensive styles we would wear ourselves — have made the label a "virtual" obsession with some mothers. Witness the success of Chiswick High Street's new BabyGap. When it opened, there was uncertainty whether it could flourish, but after just two months it had met the targets predicted for six.

Now there is talk of opening an adult store — if parents have any cash left to spend. So ubiquitous is the label that some claim "Gap" is replacing "cat" or "mat" as the first word that youngsters learn to read.

EVEN the level-headed find themselves succumbing. "I tried to dress mine in Hennes," says Maeve Haran, mother-of-three and author of *A Family Affair*. "But I found myself buying BabyGap's blue jeans. The baseball boots are great, even when the baby is too little to actually walk anywhere."

Bestsellers include anything with a logo, and in 1995 the chain introduced a range for newborns, thus hooking mothers in that pivotal stage before cast realism sets in.

For some mothers, it never does. Pamela Anderson Lee managed to spend \$692.13 (£435) in BabyGap as she beat the round dragging Ruby Wax and a BBC camera crew to tow. The voters of Pakistan would doubtless be alarmed to discover that Imran Khan's son shares his wardrobe with Brandon Lee, scion of Baywatch.



Street cred: Jemima Khan's son Sulaiman makes his own fashion statement with his trendy outfit

**T**ense, nervous headaches? Bouts of nausea? Inability to concentrate when you turn on the radio or television? Do you have palpitations when you see someone approaching wearing a large frilly rosebud?

You are not ill. You are suffering from electionitis, a disease with a five-year incubation period that inflicts a disfiguring rash on normal life when it erupts.

Toss aside your family health encyclopaedia. It will be no use to you during the final week of the election campaign. Use this cut-and-keep guide instead...

#### AN ELECTION MEDICAL GLOSSARY

**Sadomasochism:** the condition in which you switch over to ITN's *News At Ten* even though you have just watched the BBC's specially extended *Nine O'Clock News*. If you then switch to BBC2 for *Newshigh* you should consult a specialist.

**Alaxia:** word blindness, or Tony Blair's inability to pronounce certain words, specifically "socialism".

**Hallotis:** insulting odour emitted when a manifesto

## Doctor Spin is ready to see you now

promise emerging from a politician's mouth is so implausible as to be laughable.

**Glossectomy:** removal of all or part of the tongue, often prescribed by Peter Mandelson for John Prescott, Diane Abbott and Ken Livingstone.

**Infantile spasms:** seizure induced in politicians by Jeremy Paxman repeatedly barking the phrase, "For God's sake, answer the bloody question!"

**Premature ejaculation:** Unguarded comment made by Labour politician that is later "explained more fully" by Labour's rapid rebuttal unit.

**And finally...**

**Vas deferens:** but frankly, there isn't, certainly not between the Tories and Labour.

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## THE AWKWARD SQUAD

New Labour needs some old dissidents

Dissent has not been a feature of the well-oiled Mandelson machine in this contest. An iron discipline has descended upon a party that once prided itself on a sense of anarchy. To the intense irritation of Conservative Central Office, few Labour candidates have expressed deviant sentiments in their election material. Tony Blair has achieved a supremacy over his colleagues that would be the envy of all his predecessors.

That combination of charm and steel will be an asset on polling day. It may prove to be a liability in office. A party out of power for so long would be wise to seek counsel within its own ranks before embarking on its programme. Mavericks, much mocked by party managers at present, should come into their own in the next House of Commons.

In that spirit, *The Times* would commend Frank Field, Tam Dalyell, and Denzil Davies to their respective constituencies. Unlike other figures whom we have sought to highlight, their electoral prospects hardly demand outside endorsement. They have served in Parliament for 80 years between them. At the last poll their combined majorities exceeded 43,000 votes. The residents of Birkenhead, Linlithgow, and Llanelli seem unlikely to reject them now.

But in another sense they are an endangered species: unconventional men of intelligence, integrity, and undoubted independence.

Frank Field has been a figure of exceptional importance in the debate over the future of social security. That much can be seen by the respect accorded to his views by Peter Lilley throughout the past Parliament. At one stage Tony Blair seemed set to place reform of the welfare state at the heart of his agenda. His associates argued that only a Labour leader could embark on radical change just as Richard Nixon, the Cold War crusader, was the sole American President who could first visit Communist China.

In this campaign Mr Blair has abandoned radicalism in favour of scatemongering

sounds about Tory plans to "privatise pensions". It appears Nixon is travelling to China on a very slow boat indeed. That only increases the need for Mr Field. The role he plays over the next five years will be the best indication of Mr Blair's intentions for the welfare state. It is almost impossible to imagine that essential reform will take place if Mr Field remains on the backbenches.

Neither Tam Dalyell nor Denzil Davies will be offered ministerial portfolios. But both have sent warnings that should not be ignored. Mr Dalyell has opposed devolution with passion over two decades. He was the parent of the original West Lothian question. Twelve months ago he was the sole Labour MP north of the border to suggest that a Scottish Parliament should be subject to a referendum. That is now, of course, party policy. Constitutional change has the power to wreck a Blair premiership. His first twelve months might be lost in a struggle that much of the country deems irrelevant. He would do well to listen to Mr Dalyell.

The other issue with a similar explosive nature is Europe. Denzil Davies has emerged as the leading Eurosceptic within Labour ranks. His forceful dissection of the Maastricht treaty impressed all sides of the political spectrum. A former Treasury Minister, he has made a persuasive case that Labour's economic aspirations could be destroyed by hasty entry into a single currency. Much of which Robin Cook fears, Mr Davies already articulates. His voice deserves the widest audience.

Mr Blair has asked for support on the basis that what he has done for his party he can do for the country. That is not an unreasonable comparison. But Whitehall and Westminster also require different techniques from those designed to achieve dominance of Walworth Road. He might not always appreciate the advice he receives from this awkward trio. That would be no reason not to solicit it.

## PRIVATE LIVES

Independent education looks beyond the election

Education is the stated priority of all three political parties. Despite that it has not played the role that it might in this election. That is not for want of difference in detail. However, the contrast is far less stark than when Labour sought to abolish private schooling. All sides now endorse the principles of choice, quality, and accountability.

Against that backdrop, the annual conference of the Independent Schools Association (ISA) opened yesterday. Like teachers, schools in the fee-paying sector are represented by several different professional bodies. The ISA membership is drawn predominantly from smaller and less exclusive establishments. Inevitably, the prospect of a Labour government loomed large over both the official and unofficial agendas.

The trends already present in independent education are likely to matter more than specific proposals from Tony Blair. After the shock of recession, the numbers seeking admission are moving upwards. That increase would have been more pronounced had it not been for grant-maintained schools, many of which provide results that match their fee-paying contemporaries.

The rise in overall numbers marks a quite dramatic shift against boarding schools. The sad announcement that Carmel College in Oxfordshire — the "Jewish Eton" — will shortly close, is part of the phenomena known as the 90-minute rule: the reluctance of parents to consider boarding institutions more than a 90-minute drive distant. Headmasters have found, sometimes to their horror, that the customer is king.

Similarly, the introduction of league tables has had a stark impact. Attractive buildings and snob value are no substitute

for solid A-level achievement. Schools which had become rather complacent, confident that their status would assure their future, have had little choice but to adapt or die.

It might be tempting to conclude that David Blunkett could not possibly have the impact that Margaret Thatcher has already managed. That would be true if it were not for Labour's proposal to abolish the Assisted Places Scheme. That subject really will dominate ISA deliberations this week and beyond. If implemented its effect would be twofold. Weaker foundations, those that have not fully adjusted to the world of grant-maintained schools, parental choice, and league tables, will find it difficult to replace their assisted places. Many will not be in business five years hence.

However, establishments with a reputation for academic excellence will suffer no financial hardship from the abolition of assisted places. There will be waves of wealthy families waiting in the wings to take such slots. What will be lost is diversity within those schools and opportunity for the children concerned. To a striking degree it will be the offspring from single-parent families and ethnic minorities who suffer.

Labour's manifesto refers to the "apartheid" between private and public education. Yet the destruction of the Assisted Places Scheme would lead to a far more literal sense of apartheid. The private sphere would become the preserve of the rich. It is hard to reconcile that outcome with the admirable objectives for education that Mr Blair and Mr Blunkett have outlined. Independent education will remain alive and well whoever occupies Downing Street. Its character is far less certain.

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## ROYAL MAIL

Imitation is the best form of philately

George V was not a man renowned for his intellectual pursuits. But he shared with his subjects a passion for one of the most widespread and edifying of all hobbies: stamp-collecting. He spent hours poring over rare issues, freak watermarks and the vivid commemorative stamps that were beginning to make an appearance in Britain and the British Empire. George VI shared his father's enthusiasm, and bequeathed to the Queen a royal collection that was one of the finest in the world.

Hippishly rather than philately fills the Queen's free moments; but she still takes an interest in the collection, particularly on the rare occasions when it is exhibited. It is therefore something of a coup for Stamp 97, the Wembley showcase for this burgeoning hobby, to be lent her spectacular pages of commemoratives, including artists' essays for the Coronation, Silver Jubilee and 1978 Coronation Jubilee issues.

Stamp-collecting is enjoying a renaissance after more than a decade in the doldrums. It was enormously popular in the 1950s, and a postwar baby boom generation probably has stamp-collecting to thank for painlessly inculcating obscure historical and geographical facts: which countries made up the Portuguese empire, where Danzig was, why Edward VII was never crowned, why Weimar Germany overprinted stamps to the value of 10 billion marks and which countries call themselves Suomi and Helvetia. Greed, however, ruined the market. Little

countries long ago discovered that gaudy pictures and frequent issues brought in ready cash. San Marino with triangular stamps, Hungary with its wildlife and idyllic Caribbean scenes of Lotus island beauty were joined by other ruthlessly commercial post offices. American collectors' agencies bought up even post ministries in the Gulf and Africa, which happily put out regular "commemoratives" of film stars or footballers entirely unknown to the correspondents whose letters they were supposed to adorn. The Crown Agents have seen philately as a export bonanza for dependent territories: without stamps Pitcairn, Tristan da Cunha and St Helena would be in even worse shape than they already are.

With the Royal Mail now marking every conceivable patriotic occasion, including, next month, such bizarre achievements as Frankenstein, Dracula and other British tales of terror, bulging albums need more and more loose leaves. Speculators have moved into the market and auction houses discovered an enthusiasm for the hobby — until a Penny Black or Mauritius blue fails to deliver the promised bonanza. Now the baby-boomers, reaching retirement, are getting out their collections again. New issues abound. But stamp design rarely matches the classic plates in the Queen's collection, nor can garish photographs surpass the austere beauty of old engraved designs. Stamps should return to their roots: imitation is the best form of philately.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Nationality and sovereignty at issue in election debate

From the Director of The Freedom Association

Sir, Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, appears to agree with voters who object to "foreigners" like President Santer "telling us how to vote" (report, April 22).

The President of the European Commission must obviously warn against politicians who argue, even half-heartedly, for national independence. In any case, like it or not, Mr Santer shares with Mr Smith a common European citizenship: he is not a foreigner. When he retires he will be allowed to live and vote in Britain or even stand for office in our local and European elections.

Is Mr Smith, in this European Year against Racism, not going to campaign against Le Pen's French National Front? We cannot now ignore, as European citizens, the political direction taken by the constituent parts of our federal Europe. As "democratic" control shifts to a European Parliament laws in Britain will be made with contributions by French National Front members, even when domestic fascists fail to gain representation in our Westminster backwater.

Mr Smith and other regional politicians must accept that, thanks to their efforts, we are in a new era of politics, compelled to participate, no matter how helplessly, in a political structure that relegates our Parliament to impotence.

Yours faithfully,  
GERALD HARTUP,  
Director,  
The Freedom Association,  
35 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1.  
April 23.

From the Editor of New European  
Sir, Mr Jacques Santer's so-called outburst against Europe's Eurosceptics (letter, April 23) puts some substance into the pre-election debate on Europe. I met him in Strasbourg just before he became President of the Commission and we ranged over the whole topic of Europe. I was struck by his sincerity and lack of arrogance.

I think Mr Santer was right when he said earlier that "Europe should try to do less, better". Although I believe

that Europe needs a common currency — and would need it even if the EU had never come into existence — for European trade, I am also convinced that we need currencies to match economic potential, whether at the national or regional levels. Money should not be a means of suppressing economic potential.

The trouble occurs when governments create it for political reasons, where there is not economic potential.

Of course, if the EU is going to widen we need a reformed decision-making structure, but that is not such a bad thing if we are limiting the areas of European competence and introducing the principle of flexibility.

Groups of countries should be allowed to go ahead in the areas they wish to develop but the onus should be on them to prove that what they want to do is in no way detrimental to the vital interests of fellow member states.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN COLEMAN,  
Editor,  
New European,  
14-16 Carillon Road, SW8.  
April 23.

From Sir Christopher Cockerell, FRS

Sir, I seem to recall Sir Edward Heath saying that history has nothing to tell us about the European Union. I am not sure that this is true. Napoleon tried to become the dictator of Europe. So did Bismarck and Hitler. Each time we had to step in.

The current proposal for Europe is to have an appointed Commission, a non-sovereign Parliament and a European bank run by non-elected people. This is a long way from a democracy that delegates our power to a demagogue and looks dangerous.

The two countries with most experience of running a democracy are the United Kingdom and the United States: in both, to slow things and make sure that new legislation has deep attention, there is a second chamber. Surely a second chamber is equally essential for the proper governing of 500 million Europeans.

To me the priority would be to persuade the Europeans to alter the organisation to a safe and proven form before there is a move to a common currency and a further loss of sovereignty.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN KENNEDY,  
9 Orme Court, W2.  
April 21.

From Mr Michael S. Bruce

Sir, Mr Hattersley and his distinguished colleagues are, of course, quite right: Britain should be in and leading Europe. Foolishly, the French and the Germans do not share their view. Europe is led without much regard for Britain's interests or wishes.

Years of negotiation under Tory and Labour governments have failed to alter this situation. What do Mr Hattersley and his friends propose to do about it?

Yours faithfully,  
M. S. BRUCE,  
3 Wistow Road, Selby, Yorkshire.  
April 23.

### Challenge to UK of EU presidency

From the Chairman of the Institute for European Environmental Policy, London

Sir, The next Government, of whichever party, will take over the presidency of the EU Council on January 1, 1998. This institute believes that the presidency will offer powerful opportunities to take a decisive lead on environmental protection in Europe.

Although there will be an inherited agenda largely predetermined by its predecessors and by detailed Commission proposals already on the table, the UK presidency will have the opportunity to influence the debate on several issues of major environmental significance. These include the reform of the structural and cohesion funds (due to expire in 1999) spent on developing selected regions, the reform of the common agricultural policy and the common fisheries policy, and enlargement of the EU to embrace countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

While consideration of the environmental implications of some of these issues is well developed, the debate on enlargement has hardly begun. The UK presidency could begin to bring into the open both the costs to the applicant countries, and to the EU budget, of their meeting modern environmental standards, and the opportunities that EU membership will bring in ensuring that environmental values are respected.

The key is early preparation. The conclusion of the inter-governmental conference (IGC) will be an immediate preoccupation but, from May 2, it will be equally important to start at once to build the foundations for a productive presidency. In this process the UK can give leadership by clearly projecting that the European Union's common identity rests, to an important extent, on its shared natural environment and a firm commitment to sustainable development.

Yours faithfully,  
CRANBROOK,  
Chairman,  
Institute for European Environmental Policy, London,  
Dean Bradley House,  
52 Horseferry Road, SW1.  
April 24.

### Defence of choirs

From Mr Bernard Haunch

Sir, Richard Morrison's tongue-in-cheek piece ("Please don't watch, it spoils the fun", April 19) would hardly have reconciled Channel 5 to its viewing figures. Neither would it have amused cathedral organists to see their choirs, which this organisation has been formed to support, described as one of those "cherished cultural institutions... happily ignored by the entire population".

Whilst it is true that many still know little or nothing of our great cathedral choirs, others are at last becoming aware of these jewels in their midst. Though Evensong may occasionally be sparsely attended, overall the number of worshippers taking part is on the increase; indeed, it can sometimes be difficult to find a seat.

Choral services, however, are not meant to be concerts. They are not competing for an audience in the manner of a television channel. Their prime function is to offer fitting praise to the Almighty and to assist the congregation in its devotions.

Our cathedral choirs are arguably the one certain thing in national life of which we may feel justifiably proud.

Yours faithfully,  
B. L. HAUNCH  
(Secretary),  
Campaign for the Defence of the Traditional Cathedral Choir,  
17 Wigmore Street, W1.  
April 19.

### Counting them in

From Mr J. Arden-Davis, ACA

Sir, The seemingly endless numbers of accountants referred to by Mr J. M. Potter (letter, April 23) are, of course, marathon finishers in their own right, the only significant difference being that large quantities of pasta are consumed after completion of the accountancy exam marathon in the hunt for a girth to match the qualified accountant's prosperity.

As an aside, I understand that the correct distance for accountants running in the Marathon is whatever their clients would like it to be.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES ARDEN-DAVIS,  
70 Ranelagh Road,  
East Ham, E6.  
April 23.

### Nesting habits

From Mr Phil R. Ridgway

Sir, We regularly have one or two pairs of house martins nesting in our stables. However, this year there is a group of three birds busily building a nest together.

Is this unusual? Should I just ignore them, seek the advice of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, or ask the clergy for guidance?

Yours sincerely,  
PHIL RIDGWAY,  
27 Naverne Meadows,  
Woodbridge, Suffolk.  
April 23.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.



## COURT CIRCULAR

**WINDSOR CASTLE**  
April 24: General Sir Charles Guthrie was received by the Queen upon his appointment as Chief of the Defence Staff and remained to luncheon.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President, this afternoon attended a luncheon followed by the Annual General Meeting of King George's Fund for Sailors at the Mansion House, London EC2.

The Prince of Wales on behalf of The Queen held an Investiture at Cardiff Castle this morning.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
April 24: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this evening attended the Annual General Meeting of 23 Kensington Square, London W8.

**YORK HOUSE**  
April 24: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, this morning attended a Royal Münster Business Workshop on mobilising business for South Africa, at the Kettlespring Nurseries of Kettlespring, Harrogate, and features meconopsis or Himalayan poppies, the familiar blue species plus rarities such as red flowered

**KENSINGTON PALACE**

April 24: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Member of the Council of Association of The Haberdashers' Company attended the Company's Goldsmith Lecture, given by the Bishop of London at St Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall, London EC2, today.

Her Royal Highness subsequently joined the Court and Members of the Company for luncheon at Goldsmiths' Hall, London EC2.

R.V. Roger, of Pickering, North Yorkshire, specialises in unusual and fancy daffodil. He is showing for the first time a split corona daffodil, "Dolly Mollinger", whose flowers look like a fried egg and the highly fragrant *Narcissus Odoratus* "Campanellii".

The horticultural trade section, well supported by local nurseries, is strong on spring flowering woodland garden plants and alpines. An extensive display of these plants has been staged by Kettlespring Nurseries of Kettlespring, Harrogate, and features meconopsis or Himalayan poppies, the familiar blue species plus rarities such as red flowered

IT IS a difficult season for daffodil exhibitors, with flowering several weeks earlier than normal, yet a display of high quality daffodil blooms has been judged best exhibit at the 70th Harrogate Spring Flower Show, which opened yesterday.

Staged by J. Walker's Bulbs, of Holbeach, Lincolnshire, the 55 cultivars,

held in cold storage prior to the show,

include the new pure white small cupped "Carra".

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## NEWS

**Tories condemn Blair's 'lies'**

■ Tony Blair was accused of telling "bare-faced, despicable lies" yesterday as the general election campaign degenerated to a level of bitterness and abuse rarely seen in British politics. Stung by claims by the Labour leader that the Tories intended to abolish the state pension, the Prime Minister last night led a barrage of attacks. John Major said that the Labour leadership were "plain liars". Brian Mawhinney, the Tory chairman, and Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, accused Mr Blair of lying over pensions and VAT. Pages 1, 9-16, 22, 23

**Woman, 63, is oldest to have baby**

■ A 63-year-old Californian who lied about her age to get fertility treatment became the world's oldest woman on record to have a baby. The unidentified Filipino mother's 6 lb 5 oz daughter was delivered safely..... Page 1

**Roman villa found**

What may be the largest late Roman villa in Britain has been discovered on a building site near Swindon..... Page 1

**Yellow peril**

There was sweet revenge for Britain's motorists when George Musgrave fell victim to his own invention, the yellow line. Page 1

**Widowers' battle**

Two widowers have lodged claims against the Government after being denied payments and allowances available only to bereaved women. The Treasury says giving equal rights could cost £490 million a year..... Page 2

**Children cheat death**

Two children escaped death by minutes when a 100ft-deep hole opened up in the garden of their home. The boy and girl had just left their sandpit when the ground slipped into a 30ft-wide water-filled gap..... Page 3

**Revenge is brief**

A woman who found the lover she met through a dating agency was married is threatening the agency with legal action. She also sewed the words "lying bastard" into a pair of his underpants..... Page 5

**Charity payout**

Charities are paying huge salaries to executives recruited to run them as successful businesses, a survey has found. The best paid received £192,000 last year..... Page 6

**TV addicts urged to kick the habit**

■ Television viewers were urged to place their television sets in the coldest and most uncomfortable room in their homes for the start of Turn Off TV Week. The pressure group White Dot wants addicts to kick their habit for seven days and devote leisure time to more creative pursuits. The group says the prevalence of television is eroding family life..... Page 5



Wood carver John Harrison with a 60ft by 14ft jigsaw, said to be the world's biggest, created for a hall in Malvern, Hereford and Worcester

## BUSINESS

**Co-op:** Andrew Regan and David Lyons ditched their bid to take over the Co-operative Wholesale Society after losing the support of Nomura, the Japanese bank..... Page 27

**Laura Ashley:** Shares in Laura Ashley plunged almost 30 per cent after the company said that this year's profits will be hit by a decision to sell off spring and summer clothing at discounts..... Page 27

**Barcays:** The bank has told customers that it is not preparing to have retail banking in euros ready for early monetary union..... Page 27

**Markets:** The FT-SE 100 rose 0.8 points to close at 4388.5. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 99.3 to 99.6 after a rise from \$1.6233 to \$1.6265 and from DM2.7807 to DM2.7927..... Page 30

**Bones of contention**

The Moscow Palaeontological Institute has accused a British university of borrowing the remains of nine flying reptiles from the Jurassic era and refusing to return them..... Page 17

**Accord limits troops**

The presidents of Russia, China and three Central Asian republics signed an agreement limiting troop numbers in their border regions..... Page 17

**Children cheat death**

Two children escaped death by minutes when a 100ft-deep hole opened up in the garden of their home. The boy and girl had just left their sandpit when the ground slipped into a 30ft-wide water-filled gap..... Page 3

**Bomb trial warning**

The trial of the chief suspect in the Oklahoma City bombing opened in earnest with warnings to the families of victims that testimony would include graphic and chilling evidence..... Page 18

**Missile menace**

Cruise missiles could become the favourite weapon of rogue states, creating a "major security challenge" for the West. A British defence institute says..... Page 19

**Charity payout**

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**TV addicts urged to kick the habit**

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## SPORT

**Football:** Manchester United are likely to scour Europe for a new striker this summer after their failure to reach the final of the European Cup..... Page 46

**Cricket:** Hugh Morris, of Glamorgan, scored a double century against Warwickshire at Cardiff, but left the field on a stretcher after being hit on the head by a ball from Allan Donald..... Page 49

**Motor racing:** Michael Calvin talks to Frank Williams, owner of the leading team in Formula One, about the potentially highly-charged weekend that he faces in Imola..... Page 43

**Golf:** Severiano Ballesteros may at last be rediscovering a measure of form with a 70 in the first round of the Spanish Open..... Page 46

**Phoenicia rising:** The Phoenix Dance Company is celebrating its fifteenth anniversary with a mixed bill including a beautiful new piece by Pamela L. Johnson..... Page 38

## ARTS

**Material issue:** The Science Museum's new £4 million gallery, Challenge of Materials, has a giant musical bridge, cardboard chairs, a wire wedding dress — and Astrotron shoes..... Page 35

**Party time:** The ever-optimistic Kurt Wallinger pays his own homage to the Beatles and others on Egyptology, the fourth album by his World Party..... Page 36

**Pensive Paul:** Paul McCartney has much to celebrate, including a strong solo album out in May, a new single and a knighthood. But his mood is reflective..... Page 37

**Phoenix rising:** The Phoenix Dance Company is celebrating its fifteenth anniversary with a mixed bill including a beautiful new piece by Pamela L. Johnson..... Page 38

## FEATURES

**Valerie Grove:** As John Schlesinger's film of *Cold Comfort Farm* has its charity premiere in London, Valerie Grove talks to a director who, at the age of 71, is on top of his craft and known among colleagues as a benevolent dictator..... Page 20

**Closing the gap:** In some corners of England "Gap" is said to be replacing "cat" or "mat" as the first word that precocious youngsters learn to read. says Grace Bradley. The cool, sporty styles have made the label an obsession with some mothers..... Page 21

**Bone appetit:** Giles Whitham borrows a dog so it can join the other pampered pooches at the first restaurant in America to have a separate menu for dogs..... Page 21

## EDUCATION

**Young at arts:** The health of the arts in schools is strong, says a survey. But more money should be provided to develop the talent of young musicians, Susan Elkins argues..... Page 41

## THE PAPERS

President Yeltsin's announcement of a new "multipolar" world order boils down to an admission that Russia is now a second-rate power and will have to make the best of it... Russia has now joined the club of second-tier independent powers, especially China and India, who share a sense of resentment at US hegemony. — *Moscow Times*

## LISTINGS

**Preview:** Britain's leisure industry under scrutiny in *Weekend Watchdog* (BBC1, 7.00pm). Review: Matthew Bond on a couple obsessed with vacuum cleaners, in *Mad About Machines*..... Pages 50, 51

## OPINION

**The awkward squad**

*The Times* would command Frank Field, Tam Dalyell, and Denzil Davies to their respective constituencies..... Page 23

## Private lives

Labour's manifesto refers to the "apartheid" between private and public education. The destruction of the Assisted Places Scheme would lead to a far more literal sense of apartheid..... Page 23

## Royal mail

George V was not a man renowned for his intellectual pursuits. But he shared with his subjects a passion for one of the most widespread and edifying of all hobbies: stamp-collecting..... Page 23

## COLUMNS

**MATTHEW PARRIS**

Could the Labour Party permanently supplant the Conservatives in the affections of Middle Britain? And could the Tories swerve of towards what many may dub the Likud Tendency? These may prove the great questions whose genesis we are witnessing, without knowing it..... Page 22

## TESSA BLACKSTONE

With less than a week to go before the election, those who tell the pollsters they don't know or don't care should relent and abandon their indifference..... Page 22

## PHILIP HOWARD

Ciaron Santor of the Brussels Directorate sighed deeply and pushed his spectacles farther down his nose. He had done his best to smoke out just one of those beefy *Pouldings* across the Channel who would admit to liking Santor's federal vision..... Page 22

## OBITUARIES

**Dr Robert Simpson**, former Minister of Community Relations in Northern Ireland; Michael Macoun, colonial policeman..... Page 25

## LETTERS

Nationality and sovereignty in Europe; UK presidency of EU; sanctions on Burma; abortion broadcast..... Page 23

## TOMORROW

## IN THE TIMES

**CAR 97**  
The motorcyclist who has fought cancer to return to the World Superbike Championship

**MAGAZINE**  
Once Roberto Alagna was hailed as the fourth tenor; now the singer is making a comeback



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# THE TIMES 2

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## ECONOMICS

Anatole Kaletsky finds French comfort for Eurosceptics  
PAGE 31



## EDUCATION

Are our young musicians losing a chance to learn?  
PAGES 41



## SPORT

United reflect on net losses in European Cup  
PAGES 43-52

## TELEVISION AND RADIO

PAGES 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY APRIL 25 1997

## Tunnel's refinance proposals attacked

By JASON NISSE

**EUROTUNNEL** was given a warning yesterday that its £2.2 billion refinancing plans do not go far enough.

The proposals, which Eurotunnel said were back on track despite revealing full-year losses of £685 million, would cut its £8.7 billion of debt by £1.1 billion immediately, and by another £1.1 billion in six years' time.

Richard Hannah, transport analyst at UBS Securities, said: "The proposals are not sufficiently robust to last. Shareholders could be looking at another tranche of refinancing within a few years."

The updated plans, which are dependent on Eurotunnel meeting the turnover targets it set before last November's fire, have been agreed by the steering group of six banks but will not go before the 225-strong banking syndicate until October. Three shareholder groups in France are planning to block the proposals.

However, Robert Malpas, Eurotunnel's co-chairman, said he was hoping to win investors round by securing an extension to Eurotunnel's licence to operate the tunnel, which has 65 years to run.

Yesterday's figures showed turnover for 1996 up 71 per cent to £483 million. The operating loss was cut from £200 million to £33 million and the pre-tax loss from £924 million to £685 million.

Analysts were concerned about the first quarter of 1997 when turnover dropped from £100 million to £75.5 million, which, despite the fire, was below expectations.

Traffic figures for Le Channel Tourist, which carries cars, have recovered to 80 per cent of their pre-fire level but analysts said the test would be the reopening of the tunnel for freight in mid-June.

Best for shareholders, page 31



Andrew Regan, left, Allan Green, top left, and David Chambers, top right, with wives and guests at a function in 1995

## Regan ends bid as Nomura pulls out

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

**ANDREW REGAN** and David Lyons have ditched their bid to take over the Co-operative Wholesale Society after losing the support of Nomura, the Japanese bank that had been willing to lend them £1.2 billion.

CWS, far from pacified by the move, reacted by announcing the start of criminal proceedings against the two men and against Allan Green, the CWS executive who admits that he supplied Mr Regan and Mr Lyons with confidential information.

CWS accused Mr Green of theft and Mr Regan and Mr Lyons of "aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the theft", as well as handling stolen property. CWS said the case has been put before a High Court hearing today at which a judge will decide whether to uphold an injunction stopping them from making use of material obtained from Mr Green.

CWS is also beginning civil

proceedings against Hambros Bank, which advised Galileo, the company set up by Mr Regan and Mr Lyons to carry out the takeover, and Travers Smith Braithwaite, Galileo's solicitors. CWS said "We have been advised that there is clear evidence that both these organisations acted in breach of an equitable obligation of confidentiality to CWS. There was no credible grounds for believing that there was any legitimate basis for Mr Regan to have any such documents."

Mr Regan, who heads the Guernsey-based Lanica Trust, and Mr Lyons would not comment yesterday. A spokesman said that they had been advised not to speak ahead of a High Court hearing today at which a judge will decide whether to uphold an injunction stopping them from making use of material obtained from Mr Green.

The payment was made for his help in arranging the extension of a contract between CWS and Hobson, a

company run by Mr Regan, which bought the CWS food manufacturing operations. Mr Zimet, who has been in Israel, returned to the UK yesterday. A spokesman said that on the advice of his lawyers he was unwilling to talk about the deal.

Galileo's official line was that it had decided to end the bid after directors of the CWS declined on Wednesday to put its proposal to members. Nomura, which declined to make any comment, is believed to have given Galileo until 9am yesterday to come up with signed assurances about the deal, about Mr Regan's bona fides and particularly about the earlier cash payment of £2.4 million made to a middleman, Ronald Zimet.

The payment was made for his help in arranging the extension of a contract between CWS and Hobson, a

company run by Mr Regan, which bought the CWS food manufacturing operations. Mr Zimet, who has been in Israel, returned to the UK yesterday. A spokesman said that on the advice of his lawyers he was unwilling to talk about the deal.

Nomura is believed to be willing still to back a bid for CWS and it is understood some American banks are circling. Allied Irish Bank said it was still interested in buying the Co-op Bank, if it ever comes up for sale.

It was also confirmed yesterday that J Sainsbury was approached by Mr Regan about acquiring some of the CWS superstores. In a letter to the CWS solicitors, Sainsbury's said that it has returned all documents concerning the property.

Pennington, page 29

## Discount move knocks Laura Ashley shares

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

**SHARES** in Laura Ashley, the fashion retailer, plunged almost 30 per cent yesterday after the company said that this year's profits would be hit by a decision to sell its spring and summer clothing at discount prices.

The collection, which showed a move away from the flowery prints that made Laura Ashley famous, was the first to be produced by the design team put together by Ann Iverson, its American chief executive.

The warning led analysts to cut profit forecasts from about £25 million to as low as £18 million. The price markdowns will cost the company about £4 million, while increased advertising in America is expected to cost up to £3 million. The shares fell 41p to close at 104p after touching a low of 94½p.

Mrs Iverson, who joined Laura Ashley nearly two years ago with a brief to update the company, said over-aggressive sales targets were the main reason for the price markdowns. She added that a slower than expected new opening programme in the

US had also meant too much stock building up. "It is an over-buy issue, not a design issue. I am very supportive of the design change and confident of the direction." The problem would not extend into the second half of this year, she said.

However, analysts were concerned that apart from discounting Laura Ashley was trying to bring down prices to a point where it could compete with the likes of Marks & Spencer and Next. One said: "Next imports from the Far East and is not saddled with Welsh factories, so it could afford to sacrifice a bit of margin and give Laura Ashley a bloody nose."

The company yesterday reported a sharp rise in profits last year. In the 12 months to January 25, pre-tax profit rose to £16.2 million from £10.3 million. Earnings per share were 4.28p (2.97p) and the final dividend of 6.6p, payable on July 4, gives a full-year payout of 10p (6.5p).

Pennington, page 29



## Carby's £600,000 payoff

By MARIANNE CURPHAY

**KEITH CARBY**, one of the co-founders of J Rothschild Assurance and a key player in its six-year history, is to leave the company, in which he has a £10 million stake, with a £600,000 payoff. He declined to explain the reasons for his departure, scheduled for July 4, and said he was "looking for new challenges".

Ten days ago JRA announced a reverse takeover of St James's Place Capital (SJPC), the holding company, to bring JRA to the stock market and realise personal fortunes for Mr Carby, 50, and Sir Mark Weinberg and Mike Wilson, co-founders.

Under the restructuring deal Mr Carby was to remain managing director of JRA and sell 20 per cent of his stake to Prudential, netting him an immediate £2.4 million. He publicly pledged not to sell the remaining 80 per cent of his stake in JRA for 12 months.

SJPC said yesterday: "Having established his financial independence, he has now agreed with the company that it would be in everyone's best interest to set a firm date for his departure."

The Russian Government has a 40 per cent stake in Gazprom and there has been talk of the group raising money via the London stock market.

## Barclays breaks ranks with banks on preparing for monetary union

By OLIVER AUGUST

**BARCLAYS BANK** has broken ranks with the banking industry and warned customers that it is not preparing to have euro retail banking services ready for early monetary union. Other top banks say they would offer euro accounts from the start of a single currency.

In the absence of a political decision, Barclays does not expect sterling to join the euro in the first wave and does not want to waste money.

Its stand goes against Bank of England recommendations published yesterday. These suggest that banks should go ahead so that they can start euro operations if needed.

Andrew Buxton, chairman of Barclays, said: "We won't have converted our counters so that they can run on dual currencies, which is what is required just before the changeover, but we might be able to meet that provided a decision was taken in the very near future. As time goes on we will find it more difficult to meet that."

Barclays said it need not be ready for the earliest start date, January 1, 1999, because Britain is unlikely to join then. Mr Buxton told the Today programme on BBC Radio 4: "I think that Britain should not join in the first round."

Other high street banks are preparing for full euro services irrespective of Britain's position. Margaret Soden, senior manager of monetary union planning at Midland, said: "We will be offering euro accounts from January 1999. We are preparing for both scenarios. You would expect a major UK bank to do so."

NatWest is also preparing for a full conversion to the euro in 1999. A spokesman said: "We are planning regardless of whether we think

the UK will go into monetary union. It would appear improbable that the UK would join in 1999 but being a sizeable financial institution we nevertheless prepare for it."

The cost of converting counter services is holding Barclays back. A spokesman said: "We have held back from investing in changing the system as there hasn't been a clear decision whether the UK will be in from the start."

Barclays has invested £40 million to prepare its wholesale banking operations. The cost of changing the retail side is estimated to be about £200 million. The spokeswoman said Mr Buxton was in full agreement with the rest of the board on the issue.

The Bank of England's report, Practical Issues Arising from the Introduction of the Euro, sets a timetable for euro-denominated retail payment systems. It says banks should aim to "make the necessary amendments to the infrastructure by January 1, 1999".

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□ Everything to prove at Laura Ashley □ External approach is better for bids □ Banks must tackle millennium bug first

□ ONE can only speculate as to the manner in which the irascible Sir Bernard Ashley received the latest trading figures from the company that bears his late wife's name but those of a sensitive disposition would have been well advised to keep clear.

Sir Bernard, whose family holds almost a third of Laura Ashley, would have been surprised in suggesting to chief executive Ann Iverson that she cut the jargon and explain why the company she was so confident she could put to rights is still struggling.

For the chief executive to offer the platitude that "we continue to remain a results-driven group", is hardly destined to win a round of applause from shareholders who have just seen the value of their investment fall by a third.

After nearly two years in the role, Ms Iverson is still experimenting without producing results that suggest she has found a formula worthy of reproducing.

She is undoubtedly highly motivated — the potential to pocket up to £5 million in another couple of years should provide some inspiration. But on current performance, the glossy American will not have to worry about any new windfall tax that may be looming.

There are two views on Laura Ashley. The first, encouraged by

the enthusiasts of Sir Bernard, believe that it has all the makings of an international brand that could rank among the best. The second sees it as a niche player, which cannot grow too far out of its heritage however much Ms Iverson tries to cast off the floral prints. On current view, the second may have got it right.

Ms Iverson, often described as feisty, has taken the brave step of investing heavily in moving Ashley into new stores in the US, with little indication that these will be any more successful than the smaller ones that have been found.

In the UK, she tells us that the company has cleverly kept up sales levels by "taking greater mark-downs in order to ensure better sell through of in-season merchandise". This is what other retailers refer to as having a sale.

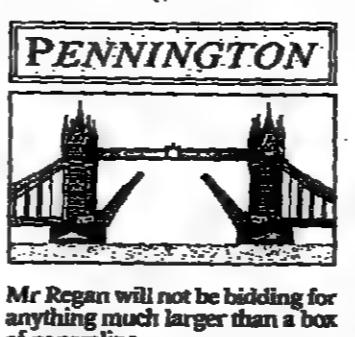
It will take more than jargon to improve results from the group. Whether she blames late store openings or over-optimistic ordering, the chief executive has had to admit that the next set of figures will be disappointing because customers are not buying

all that Laura Ashley wants to sell.

Her task is made harder by the heritage factor: the Welsh factories that were part of the original Ashley dream and which Sir Bernard is loathe to close. Whatever the theoretical benefits of an integrated business, Laura Ashley has never found them.

And Iverson has brought in an almost entirely new team to help her turn around the company, most of them female. They may loyalty shop in the company stores but their custom will not be enough to bring her the

behaviour on such occasions, and few new readers will have cared for what they read this time. Songs to Cayman Islands companies, the leaking of private documents through the back door; the CWS's resorting to private detectives to photograph Mrs Regan's bikini seems a justified response.



Mr Regan will not be bidding for anything much larger than a box of paperclips.

Good thing, too. His activities have done a disservice to the City, and to anyone who thinks it right for underperforming managers to be swept aside in favour of performing ones, to the benefit of those who actually own the assets. This is the justification for the contested takeover bid, and if Labour makes these more difficult if in power, some of the blame must rest with Mr Regan and his pals.

This has been one of those occasional bids — Porte and Granada was the last — that has made it on to the front pages from the financial sections. The City should always be on its best

Given the internal tangles at the CWS, the CRS and the rest of the movement, an external approach may prove to be the easier..

### Barclays backs ostrich over EMU

□ BARCLAYS is right to risk political incorrectness and tell Britain's politicians to stop being so self-indulgent over the single currency. Across Europe, banks and businesses (including the continental parts of British groups) are preparing actively for retail use of the euro in the confidence that their own governments are pressing ahead. It may not happen but any business decision carries such risks.

If British companies are to press ahead, they have to do so on two alternative strategies. Some adjustments need to be made whether the UK joins or not. The cost of conversion is heavy enough to dent bank profits noticeably.

Some changes affect customers. Shoppers would have to put up with a shortage of cash machines, for instance, while

most were converted to euros. Banks that lost millions gearing up for the Stock Exchange's aborted Taurus system do not want to throw scores of millions down the drain on a euro the UK is not likely to join.

The millennium problem for computers coincides with the first wave of EMU. The former will cost even a relatively simple bank such as Abbey National at least £50 million. Both main parties have authorised statements saying that UK entry in the first wave is "extremely unlikely". So it is sensible, rather than ostrich-like, to put the domestic euro on the back burner and cope with the millennium issue first.

### Snakes and ladders

□ INTRODUCING what has to be the worst AIM stock ever. Skateboard International — note the International, providing some spurious credibility along with David Lloyd as a non-executive — makes a skateboard you steer by wiggling your feet. Who could resist such an invention? The company has now managed two profit warnings before its first set of figures as a quoted company. Surprise, it was brought to us by our old friends Neill Clark Capital. It would be more interesting to know who actually puts up real money for these dogs.

## Equitas court victory for Lloyd's

BY ADAM JONES

LLOYD'S OF LONDON has won a High Court battle over a controversial "pay now, sue later" clause in investors' contracts. The society had taken legal action to collect money from three names who allege they are victims of fraud.

Mr Justice Colman ruled yesterday that Dennis Leighs, Geoffrey Lyon and David Wilkinson have to pay a share of the costs of establishing Equitas, the reinsurer that took on the market's crippling liabilities.

They had claimed that they were recruited fraudulently, invalidating a "pay now, sue later" clause in their contracts.

Lloyd's said it will now be able to start collecting about £350 million from dissidents, even though an appeal should be heard in the next few months. Ron Sandler, Lloyd's chief executive officer, said: "Lloyd's is delighted that today's ruling, taken together with Mr Justice Colman's earlier ruling in the action,

upholds the legal basis for the reinsurance into Equitas."

In the same dispute, Mr Justice Colman ruled in February that the Equitas structure is legitimate, dismissing one justification for non-payment.

The American Names Association, which wants to sue Lloyd's in US courts, welcomed the decision. It said it proved that "no remedies for fraud exist for US Lloyd's investors in the UK courts".

The United Names Organisation, a pressure group of investors, said the ruling means many names will not be able to afford legal action over fraud allegations.

Catherine Mackenzie Smith, chairman, said: "For the English names with no proper investor protection law to help them, this judgment represents a setback."

Christopher Stockwell, chairman of the Lloyd's Names Associations' Working Party, said: "Lloyd's continues to behave with arrogant disregard for those it has ruined."

Later this week, Mr Justice Colman will consider the position of non-paying names who say they are being pursued for sums larger than those agreed when they accepted the reconstruction and renewal package.

Earlier this week the 1,000-strong Rose Thomson Young Names Action Group, which includes Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, and Sir Richard Body, MP, served Lloyd's with a writ demanding £1.6 million in unreduced expenses.

## Watchdog fines Invesco £60,000

BY ADAM JONES

INVESCO Asset Management has been fined £60,000 by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, the financial services watchdog, for lax accounting controls. The company was also ordered to pay costs of £25,500.

The rule breaches date back to 1994 and 1995. The fund manager failed to reconcile promptly company records with bank records. One personal equity plan (Pep) client account was not reconciled with bank records for 15 months. Invesco rules say reconciliations should be done every five weeks.

It also failed to correct promptly reconciliation differences and to maintain written compliance procedures. Overall, more than ten accounts were affected.

Invesco warned Imro of the problems in 1995. A spokeswoman for the regulator said: "No investors have lost any money."



Colin Evans, chairman, said the women's range, rather than the menswear normally associated with Austin Reed, was leading group growth

## Brent Walker leaps back into profit

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

BRENT WALKER, the leisure company formerly run by George Walker, has set a deadline of the end of the year to decide on the future of William Hill, its remaining asset. The company's lending agreement with its banks runs out on December 31 and Brent Walker is expected to unveil a sale or flotation of the betting chain before this date.

Brent Walker, which almost collapsed in 1991, is still burdened with £1.3 billion of debt and a deficit in shareholders' funds of £1 billion. A float or a sale of William Hill is expected to realise up to £700 million. Bass, owner of the Coral chain, is tipped as a likely bidder.

Brent Walker succeeded in returning to the black last year, with a full-year profit before tax of £50.6 million against a loss of £44 million the previous year. The result was boosted by a one-off profit from the £171 million sale of the Pubmaster chain in November and the award of £117 million in a dispute with Grand Metropolitan over the sale price of William Hill in 1989.

Overall group turnover increased 6 per cent to £1.65 billion, while interest charges totalled £106 million.

Operating profit at William Hill rose 30 per cent to £80 million. The company put the improved performance down to betting deregulation and a strong contribution from in-store amusement machines. The company said trading since the start of the year had been encouraging. Brent Walker shares closed up 1p at 2p. There is again no dividend.

## Bloomsbury book sales 20% higher

BY MARTIN BARROW

BLOOMSBURY Publishing, the book publisher whose authors include the controversial Will Self, achieved an 18.8 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £1.2 million in 1996.

The company said it had high hopes for sales of Mr Self's new novel, *Great Apes*, published this week.

Yesterday Bloomsbury said pre-tax profits in the year to December 31 rose 18 per cent to £1.202 million, on sales from £1.012 million, up 20 per cent from £1.37 million.

Earnings rose 21.4 per cent to 9.47p a share from 7.8p and the company is paying a total dividend of 3.5p (3.4p), with a 2.5p final.

GLAXO WELLCOMBE, the world's largest pharmaceuticals company, negotiated a truce yesterday with Novopharm that will allow the Canadian drugs company to sell a generic version of Zantac before it loses its American patent protection.

Zantac, the anti-ulcer drug that is Glaxo's best-selling product, loses its patent protection on July 25. Glaxo is to allow Novopharm to sell generic Zantac, known as ranitidine hydrochloride, for a 16-day period ending July 25 in exchange for a one-off payment. Neither company would reveal the size of the payment, which is thought to be about £75 million.

In exchange, Glaxo has agreed not to take legal action against Novopharm for breaching the deadline. Glaxo said the deal is profitable, implying the payment would more than offset the loss of Zantac sales in the period, but would not provide details.

Leslie Dan, chairman of Novopharm, said the 16 days will allow it to flood the US market with generic Zantac. "If we are the first in the market we have a huge advantage..." Generic Zantac will sell for about half the price of the patented version.

Zantac, once the world's best-selling drug, had sales of £1 billion in the US last year, down 14 per cent from 1995. The company has predicted that generic competition will slash Zantac's US sales by as much as 80 per cent.

Tempus, page 30

## Glaxo agrees truce with Zantac rival

BY ERIC REGULY

GLAXO WELLCOMBE, the world's largest pharmaceuticals company, negotiated a truce yesterday with Novopharm that will allow the Canadian drugs company to sell a generic version of Zantac before it loses its American patent protection.

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## STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# Lanica shares face large fall over CWS bid failure

SHARES in high-flying Lanica Trust will more than halve when trading in the shares resumes after the collapse of Andrew Regan's leveraged bid for the Cooperative Wholesale Society.

Suspended more than two months ago at £19.50, the shares are expected to be re-quoted within the next few days. The opening price is likely to be between 40p and 50p, but dealers believe the price could fall even further now that the £1.5 billion Co-op bid has been scuppered.

The Stock Exchange said it was impossible to say when Lanica would be re-quoted, but it is known that talks between officials and the company were taking place last night. The Stock Exchange is said to be seeking certain assurances before giving its approval.

Lanica is a thin market covered by only two market-makers, HSBC James Capel and Winterflood Securities. They will only quote a price in 50p shares at a time.

Most of the large shareholdings in Lanica are listed under nominee accounts, but sources close to the company reckon that Jupiter Tyndall had built up an undisclosed stake of less than 3 per cent prior to the suspension.

The FT-SE 100 index, having risen above the 4,400 mark, ended the day almost all-square, up 0.8 at 4,388. Investors were cautious ahead of today's gross domestic product figures.

Turnover of 809.7 million shares was bolstered by the continuing share buyback in LucasVarity, 1p easier at 191p, as nine million shares changed hands.

The profits slump at ICI left the price 20p lower at 700.5p. Brokers say margins remain under pressure.

The profits warning from Laura Ashley sent the shares down 4p to close at 104p, after touching 98p.

Nick Bubb, retail analyst at MeissPierson, says: "There were a lot of positive comments about the new range. Now the company says it has bought too much of it. It's a typical Laura Ashley foul-up."

But full marks to the investor who unloaded 3.2 million shares on Wednesday, at 145p, a 6p discount to the ruling market price.

The 9p special dividend from Andrew Cohen's Betterware was warmly received by the City and the



**Rolls-Royce margins fell and Vickers shares dipped 231p**

price responded with a jump of 10p to 122p. The door-to-door catalogue shopping group has surplus cash of almost £13 million.

Eurotelnet still remains deep in the red and the financial restructuring seems no nearer completion, but there was some relief for hapless shareholders as the price firmed 11p to 71p. Total

Over on AIM, dealings got under way in shares of Lady

wood in London at 143p. The price opened at 150p and ended the session at 1591p, a premium of 161p.

Diagonal, a recent newcomer, firmed 21p to 319p with the help of a buy recommendation from Kleinwort Benson, the broker, it came to market in March via Henderson Crosthwaite at 25p.

News of a bid approach lifted Omnicare 28p to 157p. The price has come up from a low of 102p this year and is now capitalised at £18.5 million.

A profits warning from Vickers left the shares 231p lower at 2021p and had a knock-on effect for the rest of the engineering sector. There were losses for BBA, down 7p to 343p, FKI, 5p to 180p, Laird Group, 10p to 3951p and TI Group, 24p to 5231p. Siebe was also down 20p to 9241p on talk it may be about to make a sizeable acquisition.

Danny Bevan at Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, said: "Vickers was concerned that the City may have got the wrong end of the stick".

The company exports 34 per cent of turnover from this country and is affected by a strong pound. But it has also been hurt by heavy discounting of four-door models of Rolls-Royce and Bentley luxury cars prior to the launch of a new range of models. This had hurt margins and is likely to leave profits for the year static at between £80 million and £83 million.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Having marked time for much of the day, gilt prices fell sharply in late trading, reflecting similar losses among overseas bonds. Growing concern about the criteria and implementation of a single European currency were blamed.

The June series of the long gilt shed 111p to close at 1091p, as turnover reached its highest level of the week with 50,000 contracts completed.

Brokers reported demand for index-linked issues, which kept prices stable, while a further steepening of the yield curve was recorded as Treasury 8 per cent 2015 fell 111p to 1021p. Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was 51p off at 1021p.

□ **NEW YORK:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alcatel Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FTSE 100:** The index closed 231p up at 656p. Many of them are pinning their hopes on Torotrak, which does away with the need for a gearbox in cars. Whispers suggest BTG may be forming a separate company to develop and market Torotrak separately.

City speculators continue to chase BTG high, with the price closing a further 31p up at 656p. Many of them are pinning their hopes on Torotrak, which does away with the need for a gearbox in cars. Whispers suggest BTG may be forming a separate company to develop and market Torotrak separately.

losses for the year of £685.3 million were in line, but the reduction in the operating loss from £192 million to £33 million was seen as positive.

GB Railways touched 191p before finishing 13p better at 184p amid reports it is trading ahead of forecast. At least one broker believes the AIM-listed shares are undervalued.

Further reflection of Wednesday's profits news and

in Leisure, the operator of women-only fitness centres, placed by Charles Stanley, the broker, at 110p, the price opened at 1221p and touched 1301p before settling at 1241p, a premium of 141p.

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## Ethical business practice in the spotlight

A £1.2 BILLION takeover bid has just collapsed, brought down by allegations of sharp practice and potential criminality. A day earlier, protesters outside General Accident's annual meeting in Perth, demanding that the insurer sell its shares in Shell, the oil group, because of its attitude towards the environment. Business ethics are coming under scrutiny as never before.

So it was appropriate that yesterday should have seen the final round in this year's Business Ethics competition, sponsored by NatWest Group and *The Times*.

Few senior businessmen would relish the situation that our six undergraduate finalists were asked to envisage: being under siege by rampant pressure groups and a highly critical media.

It was to encourage consideration and debate on business ethics that NatWest and *The Times* launched this competition three years ago. Yesterday Owain Evans, 18, an economics student from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, became the latest winner, with a cheque for £3,000, and a similar amount to his university.

The judges — Derek Wanless, NatWest chief executive, John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, John Drummond, managing director of Integrity Works, a specialist business ethics consultancy, Julia Neuberger, chairman of Camden & Islington NHS Trust, and Patience Wheatcroft, business editor of *The Times* — felt that Owain's grasp of ethical issues and the way they should be handled gave him the edge over his rivals.

Nicola Grant from Kingston University came second and Fiona Flintan from Wye College, University of London, came third.

Each had been asked to put themselves behind the desk of the chairman of Go-Build, a construction firm engaged on building a road that was, inevitably, not to everyone's liking. Protesters in the Swampy mould were on the attack, and Go-Build had to contend with the dilemma of reconciling the interests of investors, employees, clients and demonstrators.

Most of our finalists demonstrated a trusting belief in the fact that the demonstrators would be amenable to rational discussion, and that good communication could do much to cope with the problem. Businessmen might have taken them to issue on that point. But what business should note is that our bright youngsters almost all shared certain strong views on what constitutes ethical behaviour. In particular, they emphasised the need for business to care for the environment and advocated policies which could hit the profits that might otherwise go to shareholders. Their cry was for companies to look to the long term, with the optimistic refrain that ethical behaviour would bring its rewards eventually.

We must hope that their idealism will not be compromised in coming years.

PATIENCE WHEATCROFT

## Caspian's Leeds Lasers

A 12-year-old boy living in north Leeds bumped up his pocket money by £1,000 yesterday. Daniel Kennedy came top in a competition run by the *Yorkshire Evening Post* to christen the new hockey team being launched by Caspian, the leisure and hotels group that owns Leeds United. The hockey team, which makes its debut on the ice this autumn, will henceforth be known as the Leeds Lasers.

## Opera post

ACCOUNTANTS with an ear for opera could do worse than give Norman Broadbent International a call. The firm of headhunters is looking to fill the role of director of finance and resources at Glyndebourne. Mark Beddy, 36, the incumbent, is off to join the British Study Group. Eighty per cent of the job will fulfil centre on Glyndebourne Festival Opera and tours. A five-figure salary has been

# Fair blows the wind from France for Eurosceptics

**Chirac's dash to the polls increases the chances of EMU's launch being delayed**

**A**t last, an excuse to forget this futile and empty election campaign. Something much more important and unpredictable is happening across the Channel. President Chirac's sudden decision to dissolve the French Parliament is one of those rare political events which hit the world completely by surprise and necessitate a total reassessment of crucial assumptions about the economic outlook. In fact, Chirac's bolt from the blue could be compared with the Danish and French referendums of 1992, which set off the chain of events that culminated in White Wednesday, or the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which had no permanent effect on the oil price, but tipped the American and world economies into recession and led to the downfall of George Bush.

The assumption that France and Germany would inevitably join together in a monetary union was one that realistic Eurosceptics like myself have long accepted — despite our conviction that such a union would be a dangerous folly. On Monday evening, however, this assumption of inevitability was undermined. Overnight the probability that EMU would proceed on schedule fell from something like 95 per cent to nearer the 60 per cent or so that senior Bundesbank officials have always claimed to believe in. There is even a chance that the whole single currency project could now be postponed sine die and that Europe will move towards a different programme for economic integration and enlargement in the summer of 1992.

Setting aside assumptions about the political omniscience of the French Government, there are three possible outcomes of this election campaign. The election could be lost by the Right. It could be won by the Right, but with a small majority. Finally, the Right could win decisively. Let us consider the implications of each possibility for EMU.

If the Right loses, EMU could be wrecked. While the French Socialists support EMU in principle, their only chance of winning would be to run against the austerity policies needed to hit the Maastricht targets — as indeed M Jospin has already done in the opening speeches of the campaign. But as the campaign progresses, the Socialists could go further to threaten the EMU process. They could decide to spice up their rhetoric with a dash of anti-German chauvinism which might appeal to the rapidly growing National Front vote. More probably, they could avoid any charges of xenophobia by finding common cause with the more sober elements of the German Social Democrats, the British Labour Party and the Italian left, all of which in different ways are moving towards similar policies of delaying EMU, while their countries give priority to

economic growth, "social cohesion" and the fight against unemployment.

A French Socialist victory on such a manifesto, far from antagonising Germany, could embolden opponents of EMU on the German left and weaken the uncertain electoral prospects for Helmut Kohl. Adverse market reaction to any signs of a Socialist victory which might emerge during the campaign could turn all this into a reflexive process — a financial crisis would raise the cost of convergence to politically unsupportable levels and that in turn would feed more market speculation and add to political uncertainty. This is exactly what happened in Italy, Spain, Scandinavia and Britain in the autumn of 1992, during the last few weeks of the French referendum campaign.

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If the Right wins, EMU could be certain to go ahead. But since the markets have already priced in a 100 per cent probability of the German and French currencies merging, there is little for investors to gain by betting on this outcome.

This leads to the biggest danger for the EMU process — the impact of the six-week campaign itself on financial markets. Until the votes are counted, neither the markets nor the politicians will know whether this is the option the French electorate chooses. The one thing that seems certain is that there will be numerous

political scares and setbacks for the EMU cause between now and June 1. The market's complacent idea that the Right will enjoy a commanding lead from the start of the campaign to the finish simply does not seem plausible — not after the close vote in the 1995 presidential election, when Lionel Jospin came within an ace of an upset victory over Chirac, and the even narrower margin in the 1992 Maastricht referendum — which President Mitterrand was convinced he would win by a landslide.

And as in 1992, any market turmoil during the campaign will itself affect the outcome.

In 1992, when Mitterrand's referendum was the proximate cause of White Wednesday, the main impact of the uncertainty about French politics was felt not in France but in Britain, Scandinavia and Italy.

This time again the initial market turmoil may hit peripheral countries such as Italy and Spain. But the European economies and the Franco-German political consensus on EMU are much weaker today than they were in 1992. This time an EMU-related financial crisis in the Mediterranean could destroy the fragile political support for the whole single currency project in France.

Returning for a moment to parochial British politics, it would be a supremely ironic epilogue to our election: the single-currency monster that destroyed both Margaret Thatcher and John Major, miraculously slain by French voters within a month of the Tories losing power.

Clifford Chance and Linklaters & Paines, the 38-year-old Brit and her peripatetic husband are busily packing their sun lotion.

## Smile, please

TONY BLAIR, selling toothpaste? The grinning Labour leader would be best suited for a role in Colgate's pearly-white toothpaste campaign if he went into television advertising, according to a survey by *Marketing* magazine. Meanwhile, John Major would be best cast in Allied Dunbar's sinister campaign with the slogan "There May Be Trouble Ahead", according to 19 per cent of voters, while Paddy Ashdown could star in Commercial Union's "We won't make a drama out of a crisis".

WORD has it that we will know on Tuesday the name of the new chief executive of Channel 4. Insiders say that a special meeting has been scheduled to announce the successor to Michael Grade.

MORAG PRESTON



Attempts to meet the Maastricht criteria for economic and monetary union have already prompted protests in France



Lionel Jospin has criticised EMU austerity measures



Alain Juppé could find himself relying on Eurosceptics

## Dead or alive: what's best for Eurotunnel's shareholders?

Small investors have a bigger say than the banks, according to Jason Nissé

The French trawermen blocking the Channel ports gave Eurotunnel a fantastic publicity coup yesterday morning as it announced its full-year results. City analysts travelling to the meeting in Folkestone passed queues of trucks waiting to board ferries which were resolutely not crossing Channel. Robert Malpas, who took over as chairman of Eurotunnel from the much-loathed Sir Alastair Morton earlier this year, found it hard to suppress a smile. "They could have blockaded in a month's time," he joked.

Even better would be in two months' time when the tunnel will be open for freight traffic (assuming it gets its safety certificate). The need for Eurotunnel to win back the level of business that it had before last November's fire will be critical to the refinancing of the group's £8.7 billion of debt. But Eurotunnel will be hoping the direct action, which is so much a part of the French mentality, will not be in evidence on July 10 when it hopes shareholders will approve the restructuring deal.

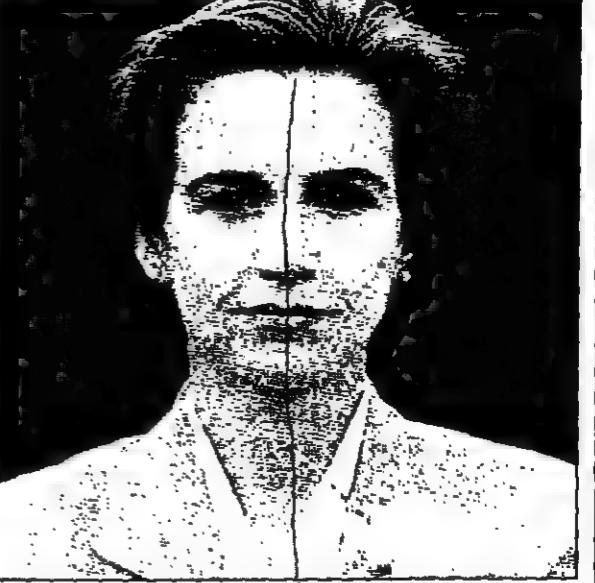
Unlike most public companies in the UK or France, institutional investors do not control Eurotunnel. About 80 per cent of the company's shares are held by small investors and more than 85 per cent of those are French. The company needs representatives of a quarter of its 700,000 shareholders to turn up for the meeting even to go ahead.

Three different action groups are lining up against the board. They are unhappy about the amount of the cake that is being handed to the banks. Under the deal first unveiled last October the shareholders would see their stake in the group cut to 54.5 per cent in an immediate debt-equity swap, with further dilution to 39.4 per cent if bondholders convert into equity and down to 24.5 per cent in 2006 if Eurotunnel is unable to pay its interest bills. But there is another complicating factor with the exercise of warrants in the group which would bring the shareholder stake back up to 51.3 per cent.

The most radical, L'Association pour l'Action Eurotunnel, led by Christian Cambier, has been a thorn in Eurotunnel's side since 1992. It has an Internet site where shareholders can lodge proxies to vote against the refinancing deal.

Within the banking community there is the feeling that the shareholders deserve nothing. Eurotunnel debt was trading on the secondary debt markets at 45 per cent of face value yesterday — valuing the £8.7 billion of debts at a mere £3.9 billion — and many debt traders consider this too high. "We offered some at 43 the other day and there were no takers," said Gary Klesch, of Klesch & Co, one of the most active in the market.

Yet the shares rose 1.5p yesterday to 71p, giving the company a market value of £650 million. Could Eurotunnel be worth more to shareholders dead than alive?



Sophie L'Hélias is unimpressed by the proposals

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY



Tony O'Reilly is to have a theatre named after him

mentioned and free tickets will be a perk of the job.

**Monumental**

ROBERT MALPAS, the co-chairman of Eurotunnel, was moving into the realms of hyperbole yesterday, describing the cross-Channel rail link as "the most important piece of infrastructure built in the world this century". This of course puts it ahead of the Golden Gate bridge, Heathrow airport and the Panama Canal. Glad to see Mr Malpas has everything in perspective.

**Opera post**

ACCOUNTANTS with an ear for opera could do worse than give Norman Broadbent International a call. The firm of headhunters is looking to fill the role of director of finance and resources at Glyndebourne. Mark Beddy, 36, the incumbent, is off to join the British Study Group.

Eighty per cent of the job will

fulfil centre on Glyndebourne Festival Opera and tours. A five-figure salary has been

1999, and the first play will be by Brian Friel, the Irish playwright.

**Plain speaking**

ANY City gent who thinks he

can add to Ann Iversen's

area where the food company features large, will cost \$18 million to build. It is to be funded by a donation from the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, topped up by the Howard Heinz Endowment. Building is expected to be complete by

2000.

**Cayman bound**

ANN NEALON'S colleagues

will be green with envy when

they hear about her appointment as chief executive of the Cayman Islands stock exchange. A former director of policy with the Hong Kong stock exchange, and a solicitor who has practised with

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# Fitzwilson set to sign supermarket deal with Safeway

FROM EILEEN McCABE  
IN DUBLIN

**FITZWILTON**, the holding company based in Dublin that owns the Wellworth supermarkets in Northern Ireland, looks set to sign a joint venture agreement with Safeway that could lead to the creation of a new all-Ireland supermarket chain.

Talks between the two sides, which began several months ago, were given fresh impetus by Tesco's decision to jump into the Irish market with the purchase last month of ABF's food retail outlets on both sides of the border for £630 million.

Yesterday Tony O'Reilly, the Fitzwilson chairman, said a number of options were being considered for the Wellworth chain,

which has an 18 per cent market share in Northern Ireland. Significantly, in view of concern expressed by small Irish supermarket suppliers after the Tesco deal, he said that regardless of which option was chosen, "we will give pride of place to our Northern Ireland suppliers who have stood by us so firmly over the years".

It is believed that Mr O'Reilly favours a

joint venture arrangement under which Safeway would pay £80 million for 50 per cent of the Wellworth chain. Part of the proceeds of such a deal could be used to finance Fitzwilson's decision to exercise its option on a further 3.6 per cent of Walsford Wedgwood at a cost of £12.24 million. The move increases Fitzwilson's stake in the company to more than 16 per

cent. Mr O'Reilly and his extended family own a further 7 per cent of the company. Fitzwilson reported flat pre-tax profits of £15.1 million for the year to December 1996. Earnings per share slipped to 14.0p from 14.25p in the previous year. Mr O'Reilly said that the results reflected the multimillion pound development programme at Wellworth to help it to

meet the challenge of newcomers to the Northern Irish supermarket scene. In spite of a 6 per cent increase in sales, operating profits were down 7 per cent to just under £19 million.

Fitzwilson declared a final dividend of 1r.35p, payable on August 29, which brings the total dividend for the year to 1r.24p, compared with 1r.23p.

## Trading scandal plunges Nomura into red

FROM A CORRESPONDENT  
IN TOKYO

**NOMURA** Securities, the troubled Japanese brokerage, plunged into the red last year after a \$2.94 billion charge against its affliting finance subsidiary.

Nomura said the parent company's net loss was Y271.51 billion (\$2.15 billion) in the year to March 31, against profits of Y23.1 billion last time.

But the nation's biggest brokerage said yesterday it enjoyed a healthy jump in its current profit in the year to March, helped by income from bond trading and underwriting.

Current profits were Y124.19 billion, up 35.7 per cent on year on year and the highest in six years. Current profit is pre-tax and includes gains and losses made on investments.

Japan's securities industry suffered a major setback last month when Nomura said two of its directors were involved in suspected illegal deals in which substantial sums of Nomura money were moved to the account of a corporate customer linked to a *sokaiya* or business racket.

The outlook for Nomura's business remains gloomy. It has already been hit hard by the scandal, which has led many clients to refrain from trading it.

In March alone, Nomura's current profit dropped to about half the usual monthly levels due to the scandal, which cut its brokerage commissions and its share of the underwriting market, a company executive said yesterday.

"As one might expect, the scandal has had an effect [on our profits]," said Takamichi Arao, a Nomura director. He added that it was hard to calculate the extent. He said the brokerage hoped to see a parent current profit this month and in succeeding months by the cutting of operating costs.

Nomura was cutting its monthly operating expenditures to between Y20.2 billion and Y20.3 billion per month in April, down Y2 billion from March, said Mr Arao. That would be 22 per cent below the peak of Y26 billion (\$20.6 million) five years ago.

Nomura's share of trading volume on the Tokyo bourse fell to 9.2 per cent in March from 11.4 per cent in February, topping it from the top spot it had held since February 1992.

Analysts said the fate of Nomura's business this financial year hinges on how hard the Ministry of Finance comes down on the brokerage after regulators complete their investigation.

Reports suggest the authorities could suspend some of Nomura's operations, including stock dealing on its own account, for about three months as a penalty for the scandal. Such a penalty would be the heaviest ever imposed on a securities firm in Japan.



JONATHAN PALMER, chief executive of Ugland International, the shipping group, which lifted pre-tax profits to £3 million for the year ended December 31, compared with £1.2 million for the previous nine

months. The results are the first since the group trebled its size by purchasing the Ugland family's stake in Hual, a Norwegian vehicle carrier, for £9.9 million, financed by increased borrowings and a

share issue. Sales were £63.2 million, up from £28.8 million, and earnings per share were 5.96p, up from 4.76p. No final dividend will be paid, making the total dividend 3.71p (3.21p for nine months).

## Betterware chief better-off by £4.6m after special dividend

BY FRASER NELSON

**ANDREW COHEN**, chairman of Betterware, is to pay himself a special dividend of £4.6 million after the door-to-door housewares retailer returned its strongest results for three years.

Mr Cohen, who raised £33 million from selling his stake in the company before its shares crashed three years ago, will pick up a total of £6.34 million this year through his family holding, which controls 47 per cent of

the company. He said: "We have all the cash we need to expand the business. We have been looking at ways of returning value to shareholders, and a buyback was ruled out because the directors own 52 per cent of the stock."

The special dividend of 9.31p will be added to the final payout of 2.52p, lifting the total to 12.83p (5.2p), which is payable on May 29.

The success of its catalogues – which the company claims

now reach one in every two adults in the United Kingdom – helped to lift pre-tax profits to £11.5 million (£9.29 million) for the year to March 1.

Although it spent £2 million building up its presence in overseas markets, there was no profits return. Mr Cohen put this down to the costs of setting up shop, but said its overseas operations should account for 10 per cent of group profit next time.

The company has joined

forces with Avon, a catalogue business with worldwide retail sales of \$6 billion, to make inroads into the markets in Australia, Mexico and Brazil.

It said that the market in Argentina was performing ahead of expectations, with the Brazilian operation due to start by the summer.

Mr Cohen said that the overseas developments would all be co-ordinated from the United Kingdom, with catalogues from Brazil being de-

signed in London and beamered over to other countries for printing.

He added: "Countries without a developed retail infrastructure have more need for catalogues. If the consumer can't go to the goods, the goods must come to the consumer."

Overseas sales rose by 27 per cent to £18 million over the year, and the number of overseas representatives rose to 5,000 against the 10,000 that now operate in the UK.

Mr Cohen said that the company has yet to penetrate urban areas in the UK. "Our weakness is still inner cities. People tend to be out of the house more, and this is a problem. We have sales people going around offices to target this, although it has not made a great deal of difference to the figures just yet," he added.

On an underlying basis, pre-tax profits rose 31 per cent to £10.8 million. Sales from UK home-selling rose by 11 per cent, as the number of long-term distributors strengthened. Overall earnings rose to 7.5p (5.9p) a share. Betterware's shares gained 10p, to three-year high of 122p.

Tempus, page 30

## BA to have Heathrow's Terminal 5 to itself

BY OLIVER AUGUST

**BRITISH AIRWAYS** will be the sole occupant of Heathrow's planned fifth terminal, currently the subject of a marathon public inquiry.

BAA, the airport operator, yesterday announced that BA would vacate its present home at Terminal 1, should construction of the controversial fifth terminal eventually go ahead. Terminal 1 would then be occupied by SAS, Lufthansa, Air Canada, United and Thai airlines.

BA's move becomes neces-

sary as it prepares for its own alliance with American Airlines which has yet to clear regulatory hurdles. A decision is expected this summer.

BAA expects the first phase of Terminal 5 to open in 2004. The agreement with BA is conditional on gaining planning permission, which BAA expects in 1998. But protesters have said they will try to delay building work at Heathrow for as long as possible.

Sir John Egan, BAA chief executive, said: "Our agree-

ment that British Airways should occupy Terminal 5, subject to planning permission, is a key step in the planning of this project which is so essential for Britain's economic future."

Bob Ayling, the BA chief executive, said: "It has long been our dream to offer our Heathrow customers all of our services under one roof. The terminal will provide the best environmental answer to meeting the demands for additional airport capacity."

## Cowie founder attacks succession hiatus

BY OUR CITY STAFF

**SIR TOM COWIE**, founder of Cowie, yesterday criticised the board of the bus operator and vehicle distributor for failing to appoint a successor to Gordon Hodgson, 65, the current chief executive.

Sir Tom stopped short of backing Neil Pykett, widely considered to be a candidate for the job until his dismissal in January. But he said: "We've got a 65-year-old who is running a company with 13,000 employees, and they've sacked the one guy who could have done the job."

Mr Pykett, the former managing director of Cowie Financial Holdings, was dismissed for alleged gross misconduct, two months after handing in his notice. He decided to resign after concluding that the job of chief executive, which he had long coveted, was not likely to be vacated by Mr Hodgson even though he is near to retirement. His dispute with Mr Hodgson and Sir James McKinnon, chairman, started when they refused to announce Mr Pykett's resignation, or to allow him to sell company shares.

Mr Pykett was due to force an extraordinary meeting earlier this month to debate the affair. But at the last minute he withdrew his motion protesting against his sacking, saying that he would pursue a compensation claim through the courts instead.

Sir Tom, who is a major shareholder and who retired from the board in 1993, was speaking before yesterday's annual meeting in London. Mr Hodgson, who has said that he plans to stay on for another two years, did not attend the meeting.

Sir Tom played down the dispute but said: "It would have been better for all concerned if the whole thing had not been dragged through the public domain." He wants the board to report progress on the succession. "They've been looking for 15 months and there's been a deafening silence so far."

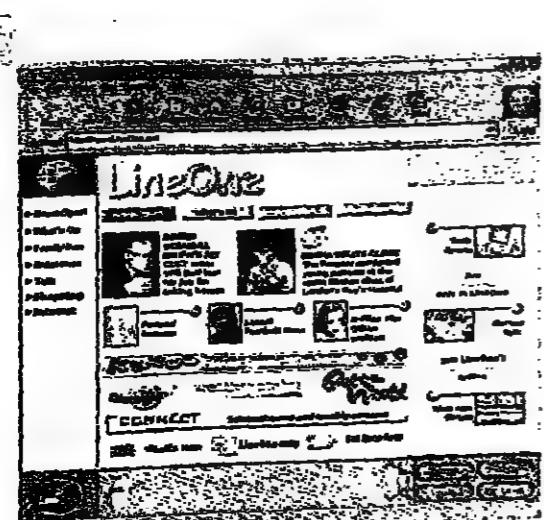
On current trading Sir James McKinnon said the overall performance remained strong. All core divisions were operating well and were continuing to provide a solid foundation for growth.

## Hopkinsons in black

**HOPKINSONS**, the Manchester engineering group that is disposing of its gas and valves businesses to focus on carbonitron abrasives, achieved pre-tax profits of £500,000 in the year to January 31 (£1.7 million loss). Turnover was down from £14.194 to £9.873, while earnings per share rose to 0.41p, against a loss of 4.19p. A final dividend of 0.8p will be paid on July 31, maintaining the total at 1.3p. The group continues to look for acquisitions for its abrasives business, and plans to change its name to Carbo later this year.

## Approach for Omnicare

**SHARES** of Omnicare rose 21 per cent yesterday as the distributor of oxygen cylinders said it had received a bid approach. The company, which has capitalised on the increase of patients being treated at home through shortage of hospital beds, is rumoured to be in talks with a US-listed healthcare company. Shares in the company, which joined the Alternative Investment Market at 60p about 18 months ago, have been steadily climbing since February. They rose 5p to 163.4p, valuing the company at £19.3 million.



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AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MNGRS	107.00	106.75	+ 0.25	2.75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
01095 552 231	78.00	78.00	+ 0.00	2.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
General	105.00	104.75	+ 0.25	2.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
UK Growth Acc	91.50	91.40	+ 0.05	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Hedge Fund Acc	107.40	107.00	+ 0.40	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Higher Inc Acc	102.50	102.50	+ 0.00	2.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Offshore Fund Acc	124.50	127.00	+ 1.50	2.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other Acc	106.20	106.30	+ 0.10	2.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Retirement Fund Acc	123.50	127.00	+ 1.50	2.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Risk Control	101.50	101.50	+ 0.00	2.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Small Stocks Acc	116.50	116.50	+ 0.00	2.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Special Acc	101.50	101.50	+ 0.00	2.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
High Income	120.50	120.50	+ 0.00	2.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
EUROPEAN FUND MANAGEMENT LTD	107.70	107.50	+ 0.20	2.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
01095 717 372	123.50	140.40	+ 1.90	2.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Gilt & Fixed Inv	101.50	101.50	+ 0.00	2.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
World Bonds	124.50	126.30	+ 1.80	2.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
American Growth	141.50	141.50	+ 0.00	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Assets & Earnings	121.50	124.30	+ 1.80	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Equity & Bond	123.12	145.70	+ 2.58	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Global Fund	101.50	101.50	+ 0.00	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
High Income Fund	116.50	116.50	+ 0.00	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other Funds	102.50	102.50	+ 0.00	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Retirement Fund	101.50	101.50	+ 0.00	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
ASSET MANAGEMENT UNIT TRUST MNGRS	101.50	101.50	+ 0.00	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
01095 717 373	101.50	101.50	+ 0.00	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Gilt & Fixed Inv	101.50	101.50	+ 0.00	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
World Bonds	124.50	126.30	+ 1.80	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
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Equity & Bond	123.12	145.70	+ 2.58	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
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ASSET MANAGEMENT UNIT TRUST MNGRS	101.50	101.50	+ 0.00	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
01095 717 374	101.50	101.50	+ 0.00	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Gilt & Fixed Inv	101.50	101.50	+ 0.00	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
World Bonds	124.50	126.30	+ 1.80	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
American Growth	141.50	141.50	+ 0.00	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Assets & Earnings	121.50	124.30	+ 1.80	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Equity & Bond	123.12	145.70	+ 2.58	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Global Fund	101.50	101.50	+ 0.00	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
High Income Fund	116.50	116.50	+ 0.00	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other Funds	102.50	102.50	+ 0.00	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
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ASSET MANAGEMENT UNIT TRUST MNGRS	101.50	101.50	+ 0.00	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
01095 717 375	101.50	101.50	+ 0.00	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Gilt & Fixed Inv	101.50	101.50	+ 0.00	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
World Bonds	124.50	126.30	+ 1.80	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
American Growth	141.50	141.50	+ 0.00	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Assets & Earnings	121.50	124.30	+ 1.80	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Equity & Bond	123.12	145.																			



**MUSEUMS**  
Ordinary objects in extraordinary materials as the Science Museum launches a new gallery



**THEATRE 1**  
*Bailegangaire* augurs well for the Royal Court's new Irish discovery, Tom Murphy



**THEATRE 2**  
Rare Tennessee Williams proves to be full of autobiographical interest in Hammersmith



**THEATRE 3**  
Tom Driberg reincarnate? Michael Gambon gives a terrific performance as the dissolute MP

The Science Museum's new £4 million gallery will show you exactly what materialism means. Nigel Hawkes reports

PETER TREVOR

# Make what you will of it

**M**aterials maketh man, or so the prehistorians preach. Stone, bronze and iron all gave their names to periods of history. Today the range of materials available to engineers and designers is so enormous that most of us would be hard-pressed to identify more than a handful of them.

At the Science Museum in South Kensington, the importance of materials is about to be recognised in a new gallery. Amid the dust and disorder of contractors striving to complete the job by the opening date of May 14, it is possible to see that a big investment — £4.5 million over the next ten years — is going to produce something good.

The old gallery was called Iron and Steel, Glass and Plastics. It's unlikely that anyone will remember it especially well, because it did not include any of those knockout items that stick in the mind. The new Challenge of Materials Gallery has set out quite deliberately to remedy the defect, with a stunning bridge made of glass and supported by fine steel wires which runs across the gallery 30 feet above the ground.

"Not everyone will want to go over it, and that's partly the point," says Heather Mayfield, project leader for the new gallery. "People look back on their visits to the museum and remember the really amazing things. We think this is going to be one of them."

Designed by bridge architect Chris Wilkinson and structural engineer Bryn Bird, the bridge is the lightest

possible structure to span the distance. It floats across the void, hanging from steel strands as fine as piano wire.

At some risk of gilding the lily, these strands, the glass deck and the handrail are linked to a computer which will turn the various stresses experienced by the bridge into sounds. The

possible structure to span the distance. It floats across the void, hanging from steel strands as fine as piano wire.

Those who prefer glass cases full of interesting objects will not be neglected. The gallery includes three huge "walk-through" cases, each with about 300 objects from the museum's collection.

"These could be examples of the first time a material was used, unique objects, or things associated with somebody significant," explains Mayfield.

Wackier items to be found elsewhere include cardboard chairs, a Bakelite coffin, a wedding dress woven from steel wire, a stainless steel bomber jacket and a morning gown created by Vivienne Westwood from Axminster carpet. Students at Cordwainer's College in Hackney have produced some exotic shoes, made from unexpected materials. Not too many hints here of the pedagogic style of the old gallery, but the idea is to overturn preconceptions by showing familiar objects made from something strange.

**C**hallenge of Materials is innovative in another way, too. "We were determined that the gallery wouldn't look great on opening day, but then gradually get out of date," Mayfield says. "So the sponsors have provided the money over ten years. That means the core displays will change every 18 months, and we have three smaller cases that will be changed every six months."

Karen Davies, education adviser for the gallery, says that the aim has been to produce something that can appeal both to the very young and to people with a professional interest in materials science. At several places around the gallery keyboards will allow access to a database with additional information.

Hanging from the ceiling is a steel-framed house, a strong hint that the principal sponsor of the gallery is the British steel industry. Money has also come from ICI, the Aluminium Federation and Courts. That materials have an artistic as well as an engineering function is shown by a suspended steel fibre sculpture.



Cordwainer's College students have produced wacky footwear for the Science Museum's new Gallery: this Astroturf shoe is by Lucia Simon

ture by the Japanese artist, Kyoto Kumai.

On paper, at least, the design of the gallery strikes a nice balance between the need to attract an audience and the more traditional museum functions of scholarship and display. Teachers, who now have to include a lot of materials science as part of the national curriculum, are already showing considerable interest. The science of materials has been transformed in the past 30 years, and it looks as if the Science Museum will at last have a gallery that does it justice.

**THEATRE:** Tom Murphy's powerful Irish writing; Tennessee Williams's play within a play

## Life, the universe and everything

**Bailegangaire**  
Ambassadors



Rosaleen Linehan (Mommo) and Brid Brennan (Mary)

THIS is the first of several plays by Tom Murphy that the Royal Court is bringing to the West End this year. And what does it bode for a season presumably designed to stop Londoners scratching their heads and muttering "Tom who?" and start filling him alongside Brian Friel in the section of their brainboxes devoted to contemporary Irish dramatists? At the end of the first act, I wasn't sure. Long before the end of the second, I knew the omens were excellent.

Act 1 bears a strong resemblance to *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, which the Court staged last year, yet lacks that play's focus, sharpness and humour.

This time it is a grandmother, not a daughter, who is forced to look after a difficult, demanding old crone, but her nerves are just as frazzled and her days as lonely as those of the protagonist of Martin McDonagh's black comedy. In this rural outback two sets of passing headlights within an hour count as "a lot of activity". For poor, put-upon Mary the only release from Mommo's endless jabbering is the odd visit by her married sister Dolly, with whom her relationship is decidedly edgy.

Rosaleen Linehan's

Mommo, slumped helplessly in her bed, recognises Ruth McCabe's Dolly occasionally but Brid Brennan's Mary not at all. Moreover, she spends her waking hours obsessively repeating an old, incomplete story that comes close to matching the outpourings of Beckett's crazed dervishes for incoherence. They concern the day her late husband stopped in a Bailegangaire pub after a bad day at the market. There he challenged a large, boisterous man — "the size and breadth of him, you'd have to step into the verge to give him sufficient right of way" — to a laughing contest. But for all Murphy's rich writing, do we care?

Yes, increasingly we do. As Act II approaches Murphy's careful preparation brings its rewards. Everywhere the emotional stakes increase, higher and higher. The sisters talk of killing their grandmother. McCabe goes near-nuclear with rage at the absent husband who brutalises her on his trips home. And Brennan at last gets Mommo to finish what turns out to be a fascinating, terrible story. It tells how Bailegangaire be-

**BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE**

Oh, but a wandering pil-

## Players in pain

**Out Cry**  
Lyric, Hammersmith

TENNESSEE Williams made one of the two characters in this play, which he first titled *The Two Character Play*, cry out: "We can't turn back to children in public view!" But he himself longed to be able to exorcise demons and recapture bliss by so doing, and the works in which he tried to bring surrogates of his sister and his young self to life on the stage became of special importance to him.

When he wrote the various versions of this play the wonder is that he could write at all, having become so dependent on ferocious cocktails of drugs and alcohol. Remarkably, a narrative line is discernible. Felice, an actor/playwright, and his actress sister Clare arrive in some theatre at the back of beyond to give a performance of *Out Cry*.

The play within the play, and the outer play too, will lead up to a re-enactment of the Inevitable Accident that orphaned them when Daddy (how could he!) shot Mother in the bathroom and then himself while staring out of a window.

When this scene eventually arrives the tension is hair-raising. Jason Merrells stands at a window, trembling in anticipation, while a terrified Sara Stewart levels a gun at his bare back. Then the positions are reversed. Bodies sweat, hands shake, faces strain. Thrilling stuff.

**JEREMY KINGSTON**

Oh, but a wandering pil-

grimage takes us there. We first see Clare as a raucous drug-dependent actress, aggressively resisting her apparently Svengali-like brother. They explore the cluttered stage, alter the positions of doors and massed sunflowers. Stewart ventures winsome little smiles when our presence is discovered, and both give elaborately detailed performances, vigorous uninhibited — really, there's much interest to be found in that — and Timothy Walker's direction, for *Cheek by Jowl*, allows us to see the pain and panic in these two disorientated creatures.

Williams provides the occasional tangy phrase, and some neat ideas like the C sharp Clare thumps out on the piano whenever she wants to cut a scene, but despite such felicities (and the man's name, ironically, means happy) the way Williams chooses to unravel his incestuous lovers fails, by being overemphatic and yet crucially wispy.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft bearded giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

But where was Clement Attlee? Well, I must say that I

## Hot stuff on the road from Blackpool pier

**SECOND OPINION:** The play *Tom and Clem* brings back memories for Bernard Levin

**T**om and Clem — Stephen Churhett's first full-size play — turns on a somewhat strange story. We have to throw back as far as 1945, when the war was only just over; and when I looked round the audience at the Aldwych, I found a considerable number of people who plainly had no idea who Clement Attlee was. And while at least there were no people who did not know who Winston Churchill was, there were many who had no idea of the famous speech:

"My friends, I must tell you that a Socialist policy is abhorrent to British ideas of freedom... Socialism in its essence is an attack not only upon British enterprise, but upon the right of an ordinary man or woman to breathe freely without having a harsh, clumsy, tyrannical hand clapped across their mouth and nostrils... a Socialist government would have to fall back on some kind of Gestapo..."

Hot stuff, eh? Blair versus Major is nothing to those words and claims. But now I must turn to another and more exciting tale, and my age comes into the story. Hands up, those who knew who Tom Driberg was? Well, I was one, and before I say anything at all, I must point out that Tom Driberg's greatest pleasure was — I am sorry, but I have to use the word — bugger. Yes, I knew Driberg, but I did not follow his pleasure (which anyway was at that time a serious criminal action). He did indeed try it on — once we both went for a stroll on the sand at Blackpool — but I made it plain that I was not in that league, and he didn't get cross. Indeed his friendship grew.

But he took incredible dangers; once he told me that he had been practising his pleasure in a public lavatory when two policemen appeared and took him up. He kept his cool, and very gradually he made the two policemen believe that he would pull down the entire Churchill world if he was arrested; the two coppers believed him and they left.

The play has not immediately been packed, and there has been a good deal of sniffing; I don't know whether it will live. It should. Perhaps I liked it because of my memories of Driberg. After all, he did get into the House of Lords — and oh, how I would have loved to see him draped with the ermine and trying, impossible, to keep a straight face.

have never seen a player in so exact — a part when Alec McCowen took the stage as Attlee, I truly gasped, and for a moment thought that Attlee had come down from heaven — the bald head, the pipe, the very way of his talking. And then Michael Gambon took his part, as Driberg. We always expect brilliant work from Gambon, and we always get it. And we did, because Driberg was not only the man who seduced any other person who came near him, but there was another side to him. After all, he was a journalist, and a very fine one. He covered the Spanish Civil War, and in Britain he raged at the dreadful lives of the miners.

The play has not immediately been packed, and there has been a good deal of sniffing; I don't know whether it will live. It should. Perhaps I liked it because of my memories of Driberg. After all, he did get into the House of Lords — and oh, how I would have loved to see him draped with the ermine and trying, impossible, to keep a straight face.



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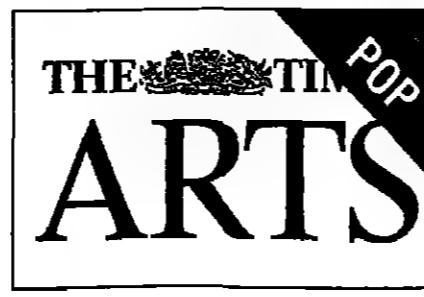
## ■ POP 1

Ancient Egypt feels the full force of the Wallinger effect on World Party's new album ...



## ■ POP 2

... while Paddy McAloon, muse to the stars, discovers God on Prefab Sprout's latest disc



## ■ POP 3

From Hungary to *The English Patient*: Márta Sebestyén has voice, will travel ...



## ■ POP 4

... and another great pair of vocal cords, Peggy Lee, comes up trumps in a blues collection

# Look on my work, ye mighty, and don't despair

Soon, Karl Wallinger will unleash his latest upbeat manifesto on behalf of his World Party. Paul Sexton acts as spin doctor

If a pessimist is just a well-informed optimist, then perhaps Karl Wallinger better off wearing his rose-tinted specs. Ever since he set out his own ragged-trousered manifesto on World Party's debut album, *Private Revolution*, in 1986, Wallinger's standpoint has been unashamedly upbeat. Of course, in that quixotic era of Live Aid and the like, he wasn't the only one. "If you want a revolution, baby, there is nothing like your own," he sang, delivering the message in the year's most attractive wrapping — brightly patterned psychedelic pop with a big red bow made of Beatles, Beach Boys and Prince trimmings.

The idealism of that generation may have long since disappeared in a nasty bout of optimism fatigue, but a musical lifetime later Wallinger is preparing for the release of his fourth World Party album, *Egyptology*, with the same glass-is-half-full approach. And this is no blind faith: fully aware of the absurdities of modern life, he retains the missionary zeal of a one-man-band trying to make music that inspires.

"There's no reason not to feel that way," he says at Seaview Studios, the boffin's den in North London where he has spent year upon years plotting, pottering and meddling with each World Party release. And the more ridiculous life gets, the better service he's providing.

"You have some terrible visions of how it could go," he says. "It looks like the world's going to be a division of Sony, and bank clerks are going to be cloned, and Marks & Spencer is eventually going to be responsible for the whole world's food. Cows will go into one end of a huge shed in Siberia and come out as chicken ticks."

"But apart from that, you start getting into the groove of life and thinking it's always going to be bonkers, and it's always going to have a chance and it's never going to be perfect. I enjoy the story of Man. It's one of my favourite soaps."

Since the last World Party album, 1993's *Bang!*, was beaten to No 1 only by R.E.M.'s *Automatic for the People*, Wallinger has fiddled at Seaview while grunge and Britpop have burnt. He also fitted in a gig as musical director for the soundtrack of the romantic comedy movie *Reality Bites*, starring Winona Ryder.

But his main musical squeeze has been *Egyptology*, from which the upcoming single *Beautiful Dream* is now receiving extensive airplay on a radio near you. Along with

**I enjoy the story of Man. It's one of my favourite soaps**

such grabbers as *It Is Time* and *Call Me Up* and the romantic *She's One*, the album contains a more shadowy piece called *Curse of the Mummy's Tomb*. But have no fear, we are not dealing here with the dread phrase "concept album".

"No, it was more a man in search of a name for his album," says Wallinger. "I hit on it, and now it's like [assumes nerdy voice] 'I joined the AA, and now I notice the stickets on the back of everyone's cars'.

You notice how much of this civilisation that no longer exists is present all the time. If the Egyptians wanted to achieve immortality, they did it. One of the greatest press jobs ever: 'Press campaign of all existence, the award goes to ... the god Osiris'."

Wallinger continues his B-side homage to the Beatles on the *Beautiful Dream* CD single, which will include painstaking versions of *Penny Lane* and John Lennon's #9 Dream. "You just fancy it," he says.

**A**s a tally of four albums in 11 years suggests, Wallinger's record label, Chrysalis, cuts him plenty of creative slack. Now, though, "it's table-thumping time", he says. "The season's started. When I began this record, I thought I'd turn it around in a short space of time, and I ended up taking the longest I've ever taken. One thing led to another. I was going to try to have something that seemed like a joined-up career, but it turned into performances again."

For all his innate positiveness, Wallinger has moments of self-doubt, especially, he says, when he turns on MTV and catches the latest piece of lame-brained rap posturing.

"I worry sometimes that music's becoming something that's made by people who can't be bothered and listened to by people who can't be bothered. I was worrying the other day about becoming old and decrepit, then I thought 'Don't worry about it, songs have been around for centuries', and I felt a lot better."

Sometimes you get led into this belief that songs have only been around since the 1960s, and they're now going out of date. But then you remember people used to sit around Egyptian campfires and sing songs to the stars."

• *Beautiful Dream* is released by Chrysalis on May 27. *Egyptology* follows on June 16



Today a greasy spoon, tomorrow the World Party: Karl Wallinger lays his plans for global optimism

Paddy McAloon once trained to be a priest. Now he's a Prefab Sprout, but he still has his faith

## In God's Prefab are many mansions

In a Merchant Ivory film, Paddy McAloon would be the gentle, cardigan-wearing priest who urges two shy lovers to make that twilight tryst. In the swishy musicals of the 1930s, he would be the book-loving millionaire who funds the off-Broadway show and comes up with the hit song at the last minute, when the original composer accidentally

tally breaks his brain in a golfing incident. He wouldn't get the girl, though — the supporting cast never manages to get the girl.

And as it is in the films, so it is in the music world — McAloon will never get the girl, or a No 1 album. Only the players in lead roles get those, and to be a lead you have to be a little bit mad: a little bit

unresolved, a little bit TV-out-of-the-window-because-I-can't-find-the-words.

McAloon has never had a problem with words, and coincidentally has never had a problem with irate porters discovering shattered Sony flatscreens in the carpark. Having trained between the ages of 11 and 18 to be a priest, written lines like "Hi, this is

"Ugh, no," he says, alternately sprawling and pulling himself upright, as if being relaxed would be a little impossible. "I'd go mad, ha ha, if I had to do all that 'be in the lobby at 9am' stuff. You do the touring when you're young and you want to drink and you're desperate to prove yourself. We did it to get an album deal and we've got one now. So I don't really find it necessary to go out and do something that I know would make me miserable."

McAloon's career with his band Prefab Sprout has been a singular one. Beginning in 1984 with the album *Swoon*, with its jazz inflections, complicated syncopation, hurtling ambition and bizarre time shifts, he followed with a couple of underground classic LPs before Jimmy Nail roped him in to write for his *Crocodile Shoes* album. Then Cher came knocking at the McAloon front door, cutting his nine-minute epic *The Gunman* down to four and yodeling all the way through it.

While Cher and Nail were out singing his songs, McAloon started stockpiling ideas. In the seven years following the 1990 God/Sondheim/Elvis concept album *Jordan: The Comeback* he wrote five others, gave them all names — *The Atomic Hymn Book*, *Let's Change the World with Music*, *The History of the World*, *Zorro the Fox* and *Total Show* — and left them in a drawer, waiting for

God here/Talking to me used to be a simple affair/Moses only had to see a burning bush and he'd pull up a chair... and built his studio, Andromeda Heights, as an annexe to the house in which he was brought up, McAloon is rock's exemplary Gentleman of Love, And Scholars of Love, too.

Having trained between the ages of 11 and 18 to be a priest, written lines like "Hi, this is

an oldie, talking to me used to be a simple affair/Moses only had to see a burning bush and he'd pull up a chair... and built his studio, Andromeda Heights, is tucked away in a village outside Newcastle, smoking cigars and raising his child, McAloon has veered off on a blissful right-angle to the current music scene. Everything

sounds like a sunset as seen from an aircraft: all dreamlike Arcadia, voluptuous towers of cloud and stars sprinkled like salt on the velvet of the sky. The verses of *Life's a Miracle*, for example, put a bittersweet lump in the throat, which the chorus effortlessly converts into heavy sighs.

"Well, it's about how we're all going to die, so we shouldn't waste a second," McAloon says. "I'm the king of futile idealism, and it horrifies me that people waste their lives mulling over the past, or worrying about the future. You just have to charge into life and get on with it. But make sure you don't knock anyone over while you're doing it."

• The single, *Prisoner of the Past*, is released by Columbia on Monday. *Andromeda Heights* follows on May 5



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## Hungarian, so she's used to rhapsodies

**M**árta Sebestyén is one of the biggest celebrities in Hungary, a winner of the Liszt prize and a television personality, with a voice quite unlike anything you have heard before. Suddenly she is everywhere, in demand with film directors and concert audiences. In addition to being the voice heard over the opening credits of *The English Patient*, she is also to be heard in Hal Hartley's new film, *Flirt*, and on Sunday she plays to a sold-out audience at the Barbican.

So how did a singer of Hungarian folk song become Hollywood's favourite voice-over? "We were playing in California last year when this man came backstage and said he had been trying to catch up with me to ask if he could use my voice in his film," she says. "It was Anthony Minghella, the director of *The English Patient*. Someone had given him one of my records and he said 'this is the music I need for my movie'."

Sebestyén had recorded the song he wanted, *Szerelem*, while she was going through a difficult divorce. "A singer's life, married to a musician — it could not work. I thought it miraculous that Anthony recognised my sorrow and pain through a recording. Although I sing in Hungarian the message of the song can reach any heart."

Indeed, the power, beauty and emotional depth of Sebestyén's voice allow her, as one reviewer put it, to "make folk music for people who didn't even know they liked such things". There is also a strong Arabic influence in her songs that makes Kristin Scott Thomas's cultural confusion in the film perfectly credible. "You can hear that oriental ornamentation all over the Balkans, and Hungary is the last outpost of that. The Ottoman empire reached us and left its mark."



Márta Sebestyén: "Wherever I go I can communicate"

**Who sang so beautifully in *The English Patient*? She plays London on Sunday**

The music of Transylvania (formerly a Hungarian province but now part of Romania) will always remain her first love. "It was very isolated, very poor and that helped them keep their traditions."

On her most recent album, *Kismet*, she also tackled Bulgarian, Bosnian and even Irish songs. "Wherever I go I can communicate. Words can be misunderstood, but never music."

"She tells a story about haggling for a carpet in Tunisia, where part of the price involved her singing. "It is easy to pay for something with dirty dollars, but it is a cultural exchange if you pay with a song."

Her musical upbringing

started literally in the womb.

**B**y 1980 she was singing with Hungary's leading folk group Muzsikás, with whom she still performs. As Hungary broke free of communism, opportunities to tour abroad opened up and Sebestyén has played to full houses all over Europe and America, Japan and Australia. There have been eight albums, and she has appeared on recordings with Peter Gabriel and Taweret Inferno as well as on the hit ambient album, *Deep Forest*.

She defends her forays into the pop world. "If you listen I am still singing the same," she says. "I feel sorry for people who aren't crazy about traditional music, but I can pass the culture to them through something else. I will work with anyone who can use me for a good purpose."

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

• Márta Sebestyén is at the Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-581 8891) on Sunday. The Best of Márta Sebestyén — The Voice of *The English Patient* is released by Hannibal Records

LOW PRESSING GAYL  
David Sin



## ■ POP 5

"Half of my songs are me doing therapy with myself," admits Paul McCartney



## ■ POP 6

Former *EastEnders* star Michelle Gayle calls her new album *Sensational*, but will anyone else?



## ■ POP 7

The best of Jimi Hendrix, and some dress as well, is repackaged as a double-album



## ■ POP 8

Punk with a 1990s spin, but little else to recommend it, comes from Gold Blade

Paul McCartney tells Des Burkinshaw why promoting his new solo album is the last thing on his mind

# Fab? If you say so, pop-pickers

**I**t has been an exciting couple of years for Paul McCartney. First, one of his old groups sold 40 million copies of the three double albums in their *Anthology* series, making them the biggest sellers of the year in America. Bigger, in fact, than Alanis Morissette, Oasis and R.E.M. combined. But then, the Beatles have always been something of a special case. Then there was the knight-hood, and now there is his latest solo album, *Flaming Pie*.

Not that he is exactly crowing about it. In fact, his record company is a bit worried about the lack of promotional effort McCartney is putting into telling the world that he, the world's most successful writer of pop songs ever, has another bit of product on the way. He has agreed to just a handful of television, radio and press interviews. There will be no tour to back

'I really  
won't be  
frantic if it  
isn't a  
success'

it up. And, frankly, Fab Macca doesn't give a damn.

"I started to ask myself what's it all been worth — the Beatles, the money and fame — if at some point I can't go 'Now can I have a good time?'" McCartney says. "It's do or die. It would be great if *Flaming Pie* is a success, but I really won't be frantic if it isn't. If I keep on going like some manic preacher for the rest of my life, it just seems so pointless."

It has been four years since his last pop album, *Off the Ground*, and those diehard McCartney fans who share his view that he "got a bum rap" in comparison with the deification of John Lennon will be hoping that *Flaming Pie* will be the great McCartney album for which they have been waiting ever since the Beatles broke up.

The good news is that *Flaming Pie*, written and recorded during the two-year *Anthology* project, is his strongest solo work for years. Oddly, the weakest track, *Young Boy*, has been chosen as the lead-off single in this country. That error aside, McCartney has made an album on a par with solo career high spots such as *Band on the Run*, *Tug of War* and *McCartney*; with a little help from friends old — Ringo Starr, George Martin — and never — Steve Miller, Jeff Lynne.

That the quality of the songwriting



Paul McCartney strikes his best Eddie Cochran pose for the photographer. "That's nice, dear," says the snapper, Linda McCartney

has shifted up a gear or two should not perhaps be surprising, considering the turmoil of his life these past four years. Besides the return of the Beatles and the knight-hood ("It would have been rude to turn it down"), there have been record-breaking world tours, the premiere of the Liverpool *Oratorio*, his first major classical work, and the writing of his second, *Standing Stone* (due to be performed for the first time at the Albert Hall in October). Most traumatic of all, he has supported

his wife Linda through her fight against breast cancer.

All this has left McCartney more introspective than before. The musical result is an album streaked with melancholy. He tentatively agrees with the assessment: "Yes, Linda's not been well the past year or so, although she's doing very well now," he says. "It's very difficult when you get that kind of situation in your life. I'm sensitive enough not to repress it all the time, and that helps you to deal with it."

Dropping his guard a little fur-

ther, McCartney confesses that his music has stopped him "going round the bend". "Music has always been a consolation for me," he says. "When you get the teenage blues, the great remedy is to write a song. I wrote *Ebony and Ivory* after a little marital tiff with Linda. It was like 'why can't we get it together — our piano can'."

So a fly on the wall at home might catch him huddled over the grand piano having a good cry? "Yes. It's an underrated aspect of songwriting. If you asked a lot of songwriters

you'd find that what happens is that they have a bad day so they skulk off to hide from everyone. Instead of lying on a psychiatrist's couch they talk to themselves in a song."

"I do that all the time. Half of my songs are very much me doing therapy with myself, and half of them I'm just writing about Desmond and Molly Jones."

The new album contains *Little Willow*, one of McCartney's most beautiful ballads since *Waterfalls*, written for the children of a close friend who died. "The morning I

heard the news I couldn't think of anything else, so I wrote this in the hope that I could somehow convey how much I thought of her. It's certainly heartfelt."

Thirty-five years after *Love Me Do*, the long shadow of the Beatles still dominates *Flaming Pie*. Even the title refers to a story Lennon once wrote about a man on a flaming pie who came to him in a dream and said: "From this day on, you are Beatles with an A."

"Working on the *Anthology* reminded me of the Beatles' standards," McCartney says. "If you run down the tracks on a Beatles album, they're all good little songs. So I thought I'd make an album where there wouldn't be a stiff on the track list — as far as I was concerned, anyway."

McCartney wrong-foots his critics by partially suggesting they were right to knock some of his early solo

work. "It was all post-Beatles stuff, and the Beatles were possibly the hardest act of all to follow. So Linda and I fell in with everyone else's opinion of it — which was that it was not as good as the Beatles, therefore it was no good at all. I hated a lot of songs from that period."

But his son James, who plays guitar on the new album, recently jogged his memory by digging out some *Wings* albums, to hear what the old man had been up to in the 1970s. "I'd forgotten a lot of it and it's really not as bad as I thought it was," McCartney says. "But I feel quite good because although it was put down, it doesn't go away. For anyone who does care to look at it, there's a hell of a lot to discover from that period."

This day may yet come. Part of his problem may have been to have had too wide a scope. With works as varied as *Yesterday*, the *Liverpool Oratorio*, *Helter Skelter* and *Mary Had a Little Lamb* under his belt, it is perhaps no surprise that he is misunderstood.

"Possibly. But not everyone is going to study you that hard. They go on first impressions. So if they see me singing *Yesterday* they go: 'He's a balladeer'. But that's because there never was a video of me singing *Helter Skelter*."

• *Flaming Pie* is released by Parlophone on May 12

## Legends brought to life

**SIDNEY BECHET**  
*Great Original Performances 1924 to 1943*

(CDS Records RCPD 632)  
ISSUED to celebrate the centenary of the great New Orleans clarinet/soprano player's birth, this meticulously annotated 24-track compilation contains 70 minutes of Sidney Bechet's best playing. His classic collaborations with trumpeter Tommy Ladnier, the more democratic Noble Sissle's *Swingers* sessions in

JAZZ ALBUMS  
the late 1930s, and the early 1940s sides with a stellar reconstituted Feetwarmers band form the meat of the album, but there are also fascinating glimpses of less familiar Bechet fare.

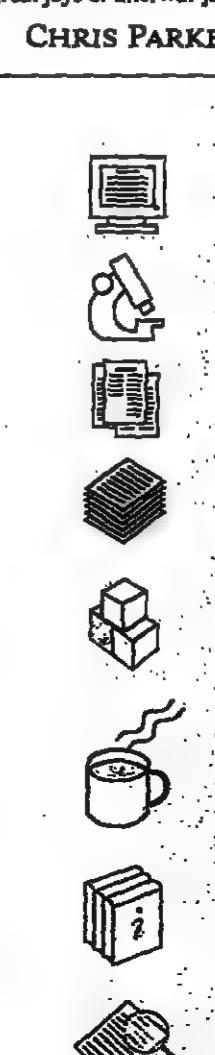
A roadhouse version of *One o'clock Jump*, tellingly juxtaposed with its studio successor, a unique outing on sarrusophone backed singer Eva Taylor and a cut from Bechet's 1941 one-man-band overdubbed session are all featured.

But overall it is Bechet's unrivalled ability to soar out of the ensembles, his playing equal parts grace and fire, that continues to justify his legendary status.

**JIMMIE NOONE**  
*The Apex of New Orleans Jazz (ASV CD AJA 5235)*

BORN near New Orleans, and with an early career fully matching Bechet's, clarinetist Jimmie Noone might easily have been one of the seminal figures of early jazz. Instead, he is highly respected but not legendary, and this 74-minute compilation — comprising material from Noone's first 1923 session with drummer Ollie Powers, through his trademark recordings with his celebrated Apex Club Orchestra, to his revivalist Kid Ory-led recordings just before his premature death in California in 1944 — demonstrates why.

An elegant, restrained player with a round, full tone that blended sweetly with his most sympathetic frontline partner, alto player Joe Poston, Noone was handicapped for most of his career by mediocre sidemen playing somewhat pedestrian arrangements. Nevertheless, his nearly incisive but melodic playing is one of the great joys of interwar jazz.



## Low pressure arias bring Gayle warning

**POP ALBUMS:** David Sinclair on the sleekly sterile soul songstress stylings of the new-look Michelle Gayle

**MICHELLE GAYLE**  
*Sensational*  
(1st Avenue/RCA 7432149322 £13.99)

FROM soap star to soul singer is a career path fraught with many pitfalls. Michelle Gayle, once Hattie Tavernier in *EastEnders*, has avoided most of them, but is still not quite where she would like to be with her optimistically titled second album, *Sensational*.

Granted, she has subtly repositioned herself in the marketplace. With its smouldering cover portrait and the intimate whispered introduction to the opening ballad, *Fly Away*, the album oozes mature, intimate, soulful vibes. And there is an impressive variety of sounds and styles on offer, from the Joan Armatrading-influenced acoustic pop of the two hit singles *Do You Know* and *Sensational*, to the rosy folk-blues of *Fakin' It*, the high point of the album.

But too few of the songs seem to come from the heart. A routine 1970s funk groove called *Working Overtime* and the drifting ballad *Yesterday* (how can anyone give a new song such a conspicuously second-hand title?) are typical of her appealing but un-demanding approach, while lyrics such as "Good times, yes they come and go/I know that's just a part of life," fall

some way short of revealing any profound truth.

**JIMI HENDRIX**  
*First Rays of the New Rising Sun*  
(Experience Hendrix/MCA MCD 1509 £9.99)

UNLIKE the surviving members of the Beatles, Jimi Hendrix is not around to give his blessing or otherwise to the tinkering with his back catalogue that has gone on almost continuously during the 27 years since his death. But, as with virtually every other "new" posthumous permutation of his songs, *First Rays of the New Rising Sun* would be redundant were the man still

performing today. This one takes all the tracks from his essential 1971 album *The Cry of Love*, and jumbles them up with the more presentable numbers from the flawed *Rainbow Bridge* (1971) and the woefully standard *War Heroes* (1972) to create a historically accurate recreation of the double album Hendrix was working on at the time of his death.

This result is a carefully

annotated mixture of the marvelous (*Freedom*, *Hey Baby*, *Angel*) and the mediocre (*Isabella*, *Earth Blues*, *Beginnings*) which, accurate or not, certainly rewrites that chunk of Hendrix's history in a more elegantly contained way than the original albums did.

Also released this week are new editions of the core albums of Hendrix's repertoire, including *Are You Experienced* (complete with an additional six singles and B-sides), *Ax: Bold as Love* and *Electric Ladyland*. It is said that these have been "digitally remastered from the master tapes for the first time", and the sound quality is good enough for the claim to be plausible. But, if true, what a scandalous indictment it is of all the times these albums have been marketed as "digitally remixed and remastered".

**GOLD BLADE**  
*Hometurf*  
(Ultimate TOPPCD058 £14.99)

THEIR name may remind you of instant coffee, and sometimes such word associa-

tions can be more than a coincidence. For Gold Blade, the English band led by motormouth rock journalist John Robb, offer a quick fix of 1970s punk culture with a 1990s spin that will do the trick nicely for anyone who has neither the time nor the patience to search out the real thing. Their scattergun, pick'n'mix approach embraces a vast array of influences, from early Adam and the Ants to *Fastest Man Alive* to the Beastie Boys on *Not Even Jesus*. But dominating proceedings throughout is the inspiration of the Clash, especially on a series of ultra-belligerent rockers including *Strictly Hardcore* and *Black Elvis*.

With sleeve notes insisting

that "the Tories cover as the Gold Blade righteous plan takes effect," their cartoon-revolutionary approach is entertaining enough. But whereas other latterday punks such as *Rockers* from The Crypt or the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion have brought something musically new to the party, *Hometurf* remains little more than the sum of Gold Blade's record collection.

As well as struggling to keep the band afloat, Louris has been having a tough time in his personal life, and it sounds like it on *Sound of Lies*, an album dominated by a succession of measured tunes with meaningful lyrics such as *Trouble*, *Think About It* and *Stick in the Mud*. The occasional uptempo tracks, such as *Cast* from *The Crypt* or the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion have brought something musically new to the party, *Hometurf* remains little more than the sum of Gold Blade's record collection.



Soap star in the suds Michelle Gayle looks great but sounds less impressive on her second album, *Sensational*



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**TOP TEN ALBUMS**

1 (1)	Tellin' Stories	Charlatans (Beggars Banquet)
2 (2)	Spice	Spice Girls (Virgin)
3 (3)	In It for the Money	Supergrass (Parlophone)
4 (4)	Ultra	Depeche Mode (Mute)
5 (5)	Mother Nature Calls	Cast (Polydor)
6 (6)	Dig Your Own Hole	Chemical Brothers (Virgin)
7 (7)	White on Blonde	Texas (Mercury)
8 (8)	Blur	Blur (Food)
9 (9)	Wet Wet Wet	Wet Wet Wet (Precious Organisation)
10 (10)	Tragic Kingdom	No Doubt (Interscope)

© Figure in brackets denotes last week's position



## House of Lords

Law Report April 25 1997

LAW 39

House of Lords

## No nuisance in TV signal interference

**Hunter and Others v Canary Wharf Ltd****Hunter and Others v London Docklands Development Corporation**

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Cooke of Thorndon and Lord Hope of Craighead

[Speeches April 24]

A landowner was generally entitled to build on his land as he wished and, accordingly, would not be liable in nuisance because a large building he had erected had interfered with television reception.

An action in private nuisance could generally only be brought by a person with an interest in the land and persons with no proprietary interest with whom house-holders shared their homes, including wives, husbands, partners, children and other relatives, could not sue.

The House of Lords, Lord Cooke dissenting on the second issue, dismissed an appeal by the plaintiffs, originally Patricia Hunter and 669 others, and allowed a cross-appeal by the defendants, Canary Wharf Ltd, in the first action and an appeal by the defendants, London Docklands Development Corporation, in the second action from the Court of Appeal [Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Pill]

## Broad approach to construing insurance policy

**Sargent v GRE (UK) Ltd****Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Mummery**

[Judgment April 16]

Where in a claim under a personal accident insurance policy, the relevant provision was unclear, a broader approach to the construction of a commercial document was appropriate, embracing consideration of the policy as a whole, its context, scheme and surrounding circumstances.

Accordingly, where the claim was for a specified sum under a clause in the policy for "permanent total disablement from attending to any occupation", the claimant, who was permanently disabled from attending to the occupation he followed at the time his disabling injury occurred and during the period of cover, was entitled to such sum.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing the appeal of the plaintiff, Christopher David Sargent, against the judgment of Judge Michael Evans QC, who on September 5, 1995, in Haverfordwest County Court had dismissed his claim for £10,000 pursuant to his personal accident policy with the defendant, GRE (UK) Ltd, following an accident on the football field in November 1991 which resulted in amputation of the plaintiff's right index finger and permanent dislocation from continuing his occupation as a dry liner.

Mr Richard Colbey for the plaintiff; Mr Anthony Reddick for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY said that the plaintiff took out the policy while serving as a corporal

[The Times October 13, 1995; [1996] 2 WLR 348], who had reversed rulings on preliminary issues by Judge Richard Hawer, QC, sitting on official referees' business, on September 5, 1994.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, Mr Philip Havens, QC and Mr Daniel Stiliz for both defendants; Mr Daniel Brennan, QC, Mr Charles Pugh and Miss Sarah Moor for the claimants.

LORD GOFF said that the plaintiffs in the first action claimed that the interference with their television reception had been caused by the construction of the Canary Wharf Tower on land developed by the defendants. The tower was nearly 250 metres high and over 50 metres square.

The plaintiffs, who lived at the material time in an area on the lake of Dogs called the New Town, said that, because of its size and the metal in its structure, it had caused interference with the signals from the BBC transmitter at Crystal Palace. A relay transmitter had subsequently been built to overcome the problem.

In the second action, the plaintiffs, residents in the affected area, claimed damages in respect of damage caused by what they claimed to be an excessive amount of dust created by the construction by the defendants of the Limehouse Link Road.

That interference with television reception might in appropriate

circumstances be protected by the law of nuisance but had been recognised in Canada, in *Nov-Video Services Ltd v Ontario Hydro* [1978] 84 DLR (3d) 221, 231.

There was, however, a more formidable obstacle to the plaintiffs' claim. Their complaint rested simply on the presence of the defendants' building. As a general rule, a man was entitled to build on his own land, although nowadays subject to planning control.

Moreover, as a general rule that the interference with their television reception had been caused by the construction of the Canary Wharf Tower on land developed by the defendants. It might spoil his view, and in the absence of an easement it might restrict the flow of air or take away light.

For an action in private nuisance to lie in respect of interference with enjoyment of land it would generally arise from something emanating from the defendant's land: noise, dirt, fumes, smell, vibrations and suchlike. The deflection of sunlight so as to cause a dazzling glare, *Bank of New Zealand v Greenwood* [1964] 1 NZLR 251.

The mere fact that a building on the defendant's land got in the way and so prevented something from reaching the plaintiff's land was, generally speaking, not enough.

His Lordship therefore agreed with the Court of Appeal that no

action lay in private nuisance for interference with television caused by the mere presence of a building. Subject to one exception, namely that a person who is in exclusive possession of land could sue even though he could not prove title to it.

*Potter v Watlington UDC* [1906] 1 KB 649, it had for many years been regarded as settled law that a person who had no right in the land could not sue in private nuisance. *Malone v Leyset* [1907] 2 KB 441.Recently, however, the Court of Appeal had departed from that line of authority in *Khosrasdian v Bush* [1993] QB 727, where, by a majority, it had held that the plaintiff had been entitled to invoke the tort of private nuisance to obtain an injunction restraining the defendant from making harassing telephone calls to her parents' home.

The question was whether their Lordships should be persuaded to depart from established principle and recognise a right to sue in private nuisance in persons who were no more than mere licensees on the land.

Any such departure faced the problem of defining the category of persons who would have the right to sue.

The Court of Appeal in the present case had adopted the not easily identifiable category of those who had a "substantial link" with the land.

Solicitors: Leigh Day &amp; Co; Ashurst Morris Crisp.

## Bank must rebut wife's challenge

**Barclays Bank plc v Boultier and Another****Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Mummery and Sir Brian Neill**

[Judgment April 23]

Where in a possession action by a bank as mortgagee of freehold property under either of the limbs identified by Lord Diplock in *Birkett v James* [1978] AC 297, Once a conclusion was reached that the reason for the delay was one which involved abusing the process of the court in maintaining proceedings when there was no intention of carrying the case to trial, the court was entitled to do so in satisfy principle (1).

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by Felix Fareed Ismail Grofit, from the dismissal of his appeal by the Court of Appeal [Lord Justice Gidwell and Lord Justice Evans] on October 28, 1993, from a decision of Mr John Crowley, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, on October 30, 1992, that the writ and statement of claim in the action for libel should be struck out for want of prosecution.

He further contended that the legal consequences of material facts did not have to be pleaded and that, if established by evidence, fixed the bank with constructive notice. Nor had constructive notice been expressly pleaded in the *O'Brien* case.

His Lordship said that procedure and practice required all material facts should be pleaded. In general, only facts should be pleaded, not evidence relied on to prove them, nor points of law and not argument.

The wife was entitled on the basis of the facts already pleaded to argue the issue of constructive notice. It was unnecessary for her to add another paragraph expressly alleging it.

The speech of Lord Brown-Wilkinson in *O'Brien* (at pp19, 195-196) supported the view that the same approach to pleading and proof of constructive notice applied to the *O'Brien* type of case as in the standard case, as the bona fide purchaser for value of the legal estate without notice of an equitable estate or interest: see also *Meagher Guiney and Lehane, Equity: Decisions and Remedies* (3rd edition 1992) p257-259.

Thus it was for the bank or other creditor to prove, and to plead it did not have constructive notice.

The bank might contend it was not fixed with such notice because (i) in the circumstances, there was nothing to put it in inquiry as to the potential existence of the claim, and (ii) if there was, it took reasonable steps necessary to avoid being fixed with such notice.

Both being put on inquiry and taking reasonable steps were aspects of constructive notice.

His Lordship rejected the bank's submission that the burden of proof and the pleading was split, and it was for the wife to plead the bank was put on inquiry and that, and only then, was it for the bank to plead it took reasonable steps to avoid being fixed with such notice.

His Lordship added that in cases like *O'Brien*, it was irrelevant whether the land was registered or unregistered: the question was whether the creditor had actual or constructive notice of the facts on which the entity to set aside the transaction was founded.

Lord Justice Leggatt and Sir Brian Neill agreed.

Solicitors: Comptons, Cundon Town; Teacher Stern Selby.

## Third party must notify witness of request for statement

**British and Commonwealth Holdings plc (in Administration) v Barclays de Zoete Wedd Ltd and Others****In re Atlantic Computers plc (in Administration)**

A third party wishing to apply for disclosure to him of any witness statement given to inspectors appointed to investigate the affairs of an insolvent company under section 43(2)(a) of the Companies Act 1985 must first tell the witness.

Mr Justice Robert Walker so stated in the Chancery Division on March 26 when hearing an application by the administrators

of Atlantic Computers plc seeking disclosure of 54 witness statements taken by inspectors of the Department of Trade and Industry investigating the collapse of British and Commonwealth Holdings plc and applications by the administrators of BCH and others in actions brought by them against Barclays de Zoete Wedd Ltd, Atlantic and others on whether certain statements in those administrators' possession were privileged from production under Order 24 of the Rules of the Supreme Court on the grounds of public interest immunity or confidentiality.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the relatively advanced stage of the litigation made it inappropriate to make any special order outside the normal process of discovery and he would set aside the order for disclosure of edited transcripts of BZW witnesses and order that edited transcripts of BCH witnesses should not be disclosed.

However, he had been persuaded that Atlantic was entitled, as against BCH, to obtain what might be important evidence as to what its own chief executive was saying on its behalf during the period of its acquisition by BCH.

Those included admission that she signed the charge, particulars in support of her claim that her husband made a misrepresentation to her on which she relied in signing the charge, that she signed believing the charge secured the

which he was engaged in caring for a severely disabled person. By section 7(5), the allowance was only payable if the claimant had not attained pensionable age (60 for women and 65 for men) or was entitled to the allowance immediately before attaining age.

In 1987 the claimant, Eunice Sutton, who was then aged 63 and cared for her daughter, applied for invalidity care allowance, but the application was rejected on the ground that the claimant had reached pensionable age.

The claimant appealed on the ground that section 37(8) was contrary to Directive 70/77 since it prevented her, on account of her age, from obtaining a benefit to which a man of the same age would have been entitled.

The social security commissioner, who had stayed the proceedings until a ruling had been given in parallel cases, relied on Case C-271/91 *Marshall v Southwark and South West Hampshire Area Health Authority* (Teaching) (No 2) [1991] 2 WLR 253, where it was held that article 6 of Directive 70/77, which permitted member states to exclude from the Directive's scope the determination of pensionable age for the purposes of granting retirement pensions and the possible consequences thereof for other benefits, to justify the refusal of the benefit.

Accordingly, the payment of interest on arrears of benefits could not be regarded as an essential component of the right referred to in article 6 of Directive 70/77.

The claimant pointed out that the wording of article 6 of

the claimant's claim for interest on those arrears, on the ground that English law did not provide for payment of interest on social security payments.

In proceedings in which the claimant contested that decision, the Divisional Court referred the question whether Community law entitled the claimant to interest in the circumstances.

As the Court had observed in paragraph 31 of the judgment in *Marshall*, in a case of loss and damage sustained as a result of discriminatory dismissal, full compensation for the loss and damage sustained could not leave out of account factors such as the effusion of time which might be fatal to its value.

The award of interest, in accordance with the applicable national rules, must therefore be regarded as an essential component of compensation for the purposes of restoring real equality of treatment pursued by the principle of equal treatment to pursue their claims by judicial process...

In its judgment, the Court held:

The claimant's first submission was that there was a right to interest derived from article 6 of the directive.

She relied on Case C-271/91 *Marshall v Southwark and South West Hampshire Area Health Authority* (Teaching) (No 2) [1991] 2 WLR 253, where it was held that article 6 of Directive 70/77/EEC of February 9, 1976 on equal treatment in matters of employment, contrary to Directive 70/77, did not provide for the right to interest on social security payments.The amounts paid in no way constituted compensation for loss or damage sustained in *Marshall* could not be applied to such a situation.

Accordingly, the payment of interest on arrears of benefits could not be regarded as an essential component of the right referred to in article 6 of Directive 70/77.

The claimant submitted, second,

graph 24).

Finally, while the right to reparation was founded directly on Community law where the three conditions were fulfilled, the national law on liability provided the framework within which the state must make reparation, provided that the conditions laid down by national law relating to reparation of loss and damage were not less favourable than those relating to similar domestic claims and were not framed so as to make it virtually impossible or excessively difficult to obtain reparation.

It was for the Divisional Court to assess, in the light of the foregoing, whether in the context of the dispute before it and of the national procedure, the claimant was entitled to reparation and that the loss she claimed to have suffered as a result of breach of Community law by the United Kingdom, and, if appropriate, to determine the amount of such reparation.

On those grounds the Court ruled:

Article 6 of Directive 70/77 did not require that an individual should be able to obtain interest on arrears of a social security benefit as invalid care allowance, when the delay in payment of the benefit was the result of discrimination prohibited by the directive.

However, a member state was required to make reparation for the loss and damage caused to an individual as a result of the breach of Community law. Where the conditions for state liability were fulfilled, it was for the national court to apply that principle.

These conditions were to be applied according to each type of situation: see *Dillenkofer*.

The claimant submitted, second,

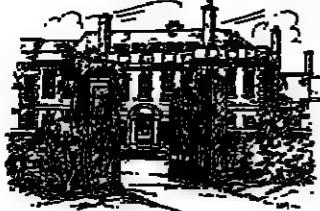
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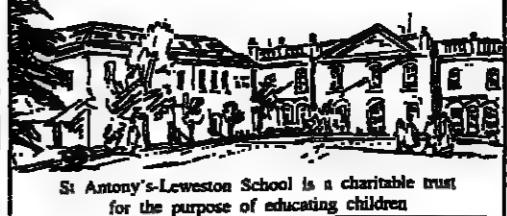
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## EDUCATION

## Arts survive the generation gap

**John O'Leary looks at a new study on attitudes to the arts in schools**

**E**very report on the state of the arts in schools carries the message that the combined pressures of examination league tables and budget cuts are squeezing culture out of the curriculum.

However, a study published yesterday will come as a relief to those who see the arts as a vital part of a rounded education. Academics at Exeter University conclude that the subjects have maintained their popularity with pupils and appear to be giving as little as much satisfaction as they did 25 years ago.

The report, *The state of the arts*, acknowledges that its sample is small and not necessarily representative of the country. Although 2,500 pupils were involved, limited funding restricted the survey to only five schools, all of which are known for their work in the arts. But the parallels with a much larger study conducted in 1971 suggest that the findings are not out of line with other teenagers' views.

In the earlier research by the Schools Council, school leavers characterised art as "useless but interesting" and music as "useless and boring".

Pupils' answers in 1996 suggested that the four main subjects — art, dance, drama and music — had become more enjoyable, although there were significant differences in attitude between boys and girls and between age groups. As the table below illustrates, the pecking order of subjects remains almost unchanged.

Crafts, a label covering subjects as diverse as woodwork and home economics, were popular with almost three-quarters of secondary-school pupils in 1971. Technology, the present-day equivalent, achieved an almost identical rating, as did physical education in second place and, to a lesser extent, English in third.

So consistent were the ratings over the 25-year period that the report suggests that a "law of culture" operates in schools. "Either student priorities are immune to all attempts to reconstruct the curriculum, or the 'reforms' of the past 25 years have not been as radical as might have been supposed."

Like other popularity surveys, the Exeter report shows a yawning gender gap in the attitudes to PE and English. Four out of five boys, but fewer than half the girls, favoured PE, with the ratings reversed for English. Mathematics gained in popularity, but science's rating slipped, with physics the worst affected.

Dance did not appear as a subject in 1971, but outscored

music in the latest survey. Again there was a gender gap, with almost 40 per cent of girls choosing dance, making it their fifth favourite subject, compared with only 6 per cent of boys.

When pupils were asked what they liked about the various subjects, differences between subjects became more obvious. Art, for example, had lower ratings for enjoyment, interest and scope for individual ideas than it did in 1971. The report suggests that the rise of design and technology might be partly responsible.

Drama, by contrast, was popular with both sexes. Although single-teacher departments placed a strain on staff and there was some fall-off in support from pupils after the age of 14, the subject was seen as more important and enjoyable in 1997.

Music remained the arts subject attracting most negative comments from pupils. The report says: "What seems to be lacking is a curriculum in which *making means playing* rather than *composing*, and a pedagogy capable of engaging and sustaining the willing and active participation of all students."

**O**verall, however, the health of the arts, when measured in pupil feedback, appears to be strong. However, Malcolm Ross and Maria Kambs, the authors, believe that the non-statutory status of the arts beyond the age of 14 has placed them seriously at risk.

The problems are not all to do with money. Teachers interviewed for the study rated budget cuts last in a list of 18 influences on the quality of arts provision in their schools. The support of the head teacher was the key factor for most staff, while visiting artists were considered the biggest influence on quality.

The new climate in schools is seen by the authors as a significant obstacle. "Schools are in danger of becoming factories. The new ethos of schooling is not only alien to the arts but very possibly detrimental to the personal, spiritual, cultural and social development of children, and to the personal and professional well-being of teachers."

But modern teaching methods, so often the object of criticism, appear to be working in the arts, as far as the pupils are concerned. The report adds: "For girls and boys alike, the message for arts teachers seems clear: resist the killjoy curriculum."

• State of the Arts, £10 from Malcolm Ross, University of Exeter School of Education, Heavitree Road, Exeter EX1 2LU.



Magnus and Guy Johnston are both former King's College choristers and both study at Chetham's School, Manchester

## Has music teaching lost the score?

**SUSAN ELKIN wonders how musically talented children will get the breaks they deserve**

privileged indeed is anyone who gets the chance to hear the 15-year-old cellist Guy Johnston playing Schubert's *Adagio* and *Allegro*, as I did recently at a recital in King's College Chapel, Cambridge.

Guy, a former King's College chorister, is now a pupil at Chetham's, the specialist music school in Manchester. He is the third child in an extraordinary musical family. His older brothers Rupert, 18, and Magnus, 17, were also both King's choristers. Their sister, Brittany, 12, studies at the Royal College of Music's Saturday school and is a promising violinist.

It is salutary to meet the Johnston family and to listen to them playing at a time when so many local authorities seem to be cutting instrumental teaching. David and Gill Johnston, the parents, are both music teachers and have given their children every encouragement, which has involved making financial sacrifices. Despite maximum grant aid through the Government's scheme for talented children, they have to pay an annual bill of about £15,000 to keep Guy and Magnus at Chetham's.

What happens to musically gifted children who happen to be born to families that cannot afford even local music lessons?

When I started the violin at the age of seven in a London County Council primary school in the 1950s, it was free. Had I been especially talented, extra individual lessons

might have been arranged. Far chance of that today.

As I write, there is a musical furor in Kent. Kent Music School (KMS) is the 49-year-old wing of Kent County Council which organises subsidised lessons for 15,000 children (and free ones for 750 children from low-income families), runs 24 local music centres and county orchestras and choirs. It also employs 450 people. KMS is threatened by a 30 per cent budget cut, which could lead to closure.

Michael Wearne, the director of KMS, says: "We are not the first to have to fight our corner. In some counties instrumental music teaching has already gone and in several others it is either under threat or soon will be. What is happening in Kent is just part of a trend."

The point is, of course, that adult musicians do not just happen fully formed.

They can play as they do only because of

decades of teaching, nurturing and encouragement throughout childhood. Musical

talent is no respecter of birth or social class. Johannes Brahms, the centenary of whose death falls this year, was born into poor family circumstances. What an unimaginable loss it would have been had teachers and patrons not discovered him.

And even those children, like the Johnstons, who have been taught largely outside the maintained-sector system need support. Guy Johnston — even more accomplished than Rupert, who is a student at Guildhall School of Music, or Magnus, who is aiming for Royal Northern College of Music — has been offered a place to study cello under Colin Carr at the New England Conservatoire in Boston in two years' time. The cost is £24,000 a year for three years.

How many families, whatever sacrifices they make, can find that sort of money? Yet there is no grant assistance available for overseas study. The only hope is some sort of sponsorship offer.

Music education is in a muddle. We now seem to deny it altogether to the least well-off and penalise heavily those families who are a little better-off. Only the very wealthy can easily afford music lessons.

If we continue, music soon really will become the exclusive province of a tiny elite. Music is worth investing in. To destroy by default systems for developing it in young people from all backgrounds is a dreadful act of cultural vandalism.

## Bet on the young, not the Lottery

**Kevin Berry on the role of theatre in learning**

FUNDING for the performing arts is nothing more than a lottery, and I ask no forgiveness for the pun. Reductions from the Arts Council and hard-pressed local authorities are leading to an even greater scramble for cash. Is there a theatre or touring company in the country that is not formulating a National Lottery application?

I am not altogether comfortable with the concept of subsidised theatre and the idea of money handed over simply because it has been asked for. But at the same time I am not that much of an enthusiast for cold-blooded market forces. I just have to see a theatre with empty seats; if I see an excellent play in a half-empty theatre, and then on my way home see bored teenagers hanging around the bus station, I feel angry. I have rarely seen youngsters in a theatre, and I mean youngsters who are not with their parents or part of a school party. Theatres are still the preserve of the middle class, although some do have excellent outreach programmes.

Some months ago I attended a meeting of theatre administrators and they were all bemoaning cuts in funding. It was as if arts funding is accepted as a right, with just the amount to be argued over and no thought of theatres doing something for the cash. The discussion got round to Theatre in Education funding and the need to subsidise children's tickets. "Children have a right to go to the theatre!" someone yelled. Shouts of agreement were lost in an angry condemnation of the lottery and the greed it has encouraged.

THAT phrase "Children have a right to go to the theatre" has been rattling round my brain ever since. Yes, they should have the right, and there is a way to ensure that they have it. □ All children under 16 to have free admission to any theatre for any show, with the possible exception of pop concerts and pantomimes. Free admission to be also available to drama students and students of English literature, and anyone in full-time education who has a legitimate academic interest in seeing a show — a student of French wanting to see *Tartuffe*, for instance. □ Financing to come from the lottery coffers, and it should be the only lottery funding that theatres are allowed.

□ Scrap the present application system. Then, at the end of each month, a theatre sends in a breakdown of its box-office figures. Theatres are paid the full amount for seats "given" to children, with a percentage going to the touring company. They will then have the cash to pay for new equipment and buildings. No children equals no cash.

So, we create a new audience, we stimulate an interest in theatre among teenagers. I wonder how many youngsters have gone on a school trip to see the Shakespeare they are studying, seen an ad for an interesting show and then glanced at the prices and thought: "Blow that — it's a week's pocket money!"

The pressure will be on theatres to make themselves known to youngsters and to provide a welcome. Not too difficult, or is it?

● The author is a theatre critic



**Bob Salisbury argues for a more radical approach to present financial problems**

## Schools face up to an underfunded future

ceaselessly to raise extra money for hardware, comment such as this certainly sticks in the craw.

So what is to be done for financial survival in the next century? Of course everyone hopes that future governments will see sense and fund education properly, but until then what can schools do to ensure that youngsters do not have their life chances harmed? Many of the pragmatic strategies now being seen in schools are surely unsustainable in the long term.

Take, for instance, the trend towards rising class sizes. Not only is this bad news educationally, but there are limits to how far it can continue. Put bluntly, it just might be possible to teach 30, perhaps even 35, but even the very best performers would surely capitulate when the numbers topped 40 or 50.

Given that funding will continue to decline, a more radical approach to our organisations are structured will be needed.

Eight years ago in my school we realised that mas-

all information, people empowered to make decisions and a risk-taking culture encouraged. Sustained inertia was seen as the only crime.

Some of the money released from this restructuring was used to fund specific projects and staff were rewarded for leading these initiatives.

The main reason behind this philosophy was to establish a quick-response, entrepreneurial culture which motivated and excited people and which made use of all the talent and skill in the organisation.

Reducing overall staffing costs was an added bonus and in an era of declining funding we need to question how much longer schools can continue to operate with massive hierarchies. I regularly come across schools whose average staffing costs have risen to £8,000 per person, per year.

The payment of annual increments to teachers, often rewarding time in the job rather than actual performance of it, has a crucial bearing on staffing costs. Perhaps spot salaries with additional remuneration for

specific projects has to be the harsher way for the future.

What also is the future for national pay agreements? Health authorities have repeatedly demonstrated the tensions surrounding national agreements which take no account of the employer's ability to pay.

At the moment we are just managing these tensions, but for how long? What is certain is that in order to sustain development and to keep equipment levels up to date, many schools will have to move more into the financial "self-help" world. It will be more commercial, will entail new skills, new flexibilities and the ability to think up imaginative schemes which will bring mutual benefits and generate new profit.

Let us hope a future government will see the sense of investing properly in education. Everyone says a problem is not solved by throwing money at it — 1, for one wouldn't mind giving this solution a try!

● The author is the head of Garibaldi School, Mansfield.

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## LEIGHTON PARK SCHOOL BURSAR AND BUSINESS MANAGER

Salary: £35,000

Successful co-educational day and boarding Quaker school open to all, requires from Summer 1997 an experienced professional to manage and develop all non-academic aspects of the school.

### The School

Leighton Park provides broadly based education for 370 boys and girls aged 11-18, about 50% boarding. Its academic standing is shown by membership of Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference.

Located adjacent to Reading University in 60 acres of parkland; £10M recent investment in new facilities.

### The Position

A key member of the management team reporting to the Head and Board of Governors.

Responsible for the full business management of the school.

The Leighton Park Trust is a Registered Charity No. 309144

Reading, Berkshire

**Qualifications**

- \* Graduate calibre, probably aged 40-50, and having held a senior post in general management
- \* Good communicator with strong skills in team management
- \* Computer literate
- \* Willing to live on or close to the school campus; a house is available if required.

### Further details

These may be obtained from The Head, John Dunston, Leighton Park School, Shifford Road, Reading, RG2 7DH (Tel: 0118 987 2065; Fax: 0118 986 6959) to whom application should be made by 16 May 1997.

## EDUCATION

### CORNWALL COUNTY AUDILOGY SERVICE PERIPATETIC TEACHER OF THE DEAF ON THE TEACHERS PAY SPINE (POINTS 0-9) + FOR SUITABLY QUALIFIED CANDIDATE

Following retirements and some re-organisation, applications are invited from Teachers holding a recognised qualification in the education of the deaf, and a full driving licence, for the post of Peripatetic Teacher of the Deaf based in Hayle in West Cornwall. The post is available from 1 September 1997.

The Cornwall Audiology Service is well established and highly regarded and is involved in many interesting initiatives in the education and assessment of pupils with all types and degrees of hearing impairment. There is also a high quality programme of in-service training and professional development for all staff.

The post will provide an attractive professional opportunity for a Teacher interested in developing or extending teaching and assessment skills with pupils of different ages.

Travel allowance according to JNC Scale. Teachers Pay Spine + 2 SEN points + 1 point for extra responsibilities for a suitably qualified candidate. Further details and application forms from: Mrs Angela Alderman, Head of the County Audiometry Service, Educational Audiology Centre, Priory Road, St Austell PL25 5AB. Telephone (text and voice) (01726) 61004/Fax: (01726) 63803.

Interviews: 12 and 13 May 1997.

Closing date: 2 May 1997.



WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES



University  
of Durham

## Chair of Law

An outstanding scholar with a strong research profile in any field of legal studies is sought for a new Chair in the Department of Law from 1 October 1997 or as soon as possible thereafter. A major interest in public law may be advantageous.

The salary will be by negotiation within the professorial range.

For an informal discussion of the post, please contact Professor Harvey Teff, tel: 0191 374 2032.

Further details and an application form may be obtained from the Director of Personnel, Old Shire Hall, Durham DH1 3HP, to whom applications (5 copies) should be submitted, including the names of three referees. (Candidates outside the British Isles may submit one copy only).

Tel: 0191 374 7253, fax: 0191 374 7253, e-mail: smr.recruit@Durham.ac.uk

Closing date: Friday, 23 May 1997. Please quote reference C045.

Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication

## Business Development Manager for Ravensbourne Ltd.

Bromley, Kent

c£30k + PRP

The College, which is in the Higher Education sector, wishes to appoint a Business Development Manager to extend its commercial operations.

Ravensbourne Ltd, currently offers a range of part-time courses, mainly for the broadcasting industry, and the College seeks to appoint a young and ambitious Business Development Manager to expand the current work of the Company and examine the unexploited areas of development. This activity will involve building on the strengths of the Company and will require skills in business development, competitor analysis and strategic planning linked with an innovative approach to delivering commercial success.

This position offers an opportunity for real career development within the competitive market of Higher Education. A competitive salary is on offer combined with a performance related bonus.

If you feel that your experience meets the requirement of this demanding position, more details can be obtained from the Personnel Officer, Ms Doreen de Bellotta, Ravensbourne College of Design & Communication, Walden Road, Chislehurst, Kent, BR7 5SN, Tel. 0181 289 4909.

Closing date for applications: Friday 9th May 1997.

Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication

## UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

## BRASENOSE COLLEGE OXFORD

### Fixed-Term Teaching Fellowship in Law

The College wishes to appoint a Supernumerary Teaching Fellow in Law with effect from 1st October 1997, or as soon as possible thereafter. The duties and rewards of the post have been tailored to suit someone with approximately half-time commitments elsewhere. The person appointed will be expected to teach up to six hours per week for the College during full term and to play an active part in the organisation and development of legal studies in the College. The appointment will be for a fixed period of three years, potentially renewable for a further two years. The College requires teaching in a range of subjects, but has a particular need for teaching in European Community Law.

Applications should be sent to the Senior Tutor, Brasenose College, Oxford OX1 4AJ, by Friday 16 May 1997. Applicants should enclose three referees to send confidential references direct to the Senior Tutor by the same date. Further particulars, including details of stipend and other benefits, may be obtained from the College Secretary (tel: 01865 277823). We would appreciate approaches from firms or organisations which might be interested in half-time secondment of suitably qualified and experienced lawyers.

The College is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

## EDUCATION

## THE SUNDAY TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES EDUCATION FORTHCOMING FEATURES

### SUMMER SCHOOLS

Friday 2nd May  
Sunday 4th May

### MBA COURSES

Friday 9th May (Supplement)  
Sunday 11th May

### INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

Friday 23rd May (Co-Ed Schools)

### EDUCATION COURSES REVIEW

August / September

For further information about these features or to advertise please contact the Education Team on:

Tel: 0171 680 6800

Fax: 0171 782 7899

## YARM SCHOOL Stockton-on-Tees

## BURSAR

Yarm School is an independent HMC day school. It has 790 pupils. 260 boys aged 4-10 in the Preparatory School & Pre-Prep and 530 aged 11-18 in the Senior School, including Sixth Form girls.

The Governors invite applications for the post of Bursar to succeed Mr J H Wilson FCA who leaves at the end of the Summer Term.

Candidates will be expected to have proven senior experience in finance and administration and should be fully conversant with accounting methods involving information technology.

Further details of the post are available from The Clerk to the Governors, Yarm School, The Friary, Yarm, Stockton-on-Tees, TS15 9EJ.

The closing date for applications is 9th May 1997.

Yarm School is a registered charity for the purpose of providing education. Number 507290

## FETTES COLLEGE EDINBURGH



## Bursar

The Governors of the Fettes Trust invite applications for the post of Bursar, who will have overall responsibility for the finances, administration and property of the school. The successful applicant will have a proven record of good administration, introduction of business systems, financial management and the control and management of projects. The candidate should be computer literate and used to the preparation of budgets and monitoring the results.

Applications (to be lodged by 9th May 1997) accompanied by C.V. and the names and addresses of two referees, to the Clerk to the Governors of the Fettes Trust, 48 Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3LX (Tel: 0131 220 2345) from whom particulars of the position may be obtained.

## BUSINESS COURSES

Secretarial  
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Hotel Administration  
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OXFORD AND COUNTY BUSINESS COLLEGE  
24 St Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LH  
Tel: 01865 310100 Fax: 01865 310444

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London EC2P 2BT  
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St Aldates

## LANGUAGE COURSES

### GERMAN DAY INTENSIVE COURSES

Dates: 6-30.5.2-27.6/  
7-22.7/4-8.8.1997  
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### GOETHE INSTITUT LONDON

50 Princes Gate  
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London SW7 2PH  
Tel: 0171 411 3451  
Fax: 0171 394 0210

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St Aldates



RACING: SEAN CONNERY-OWNED CHASER GIVES EXHILARATING DISPLAY IN CROSS-COUNTRY RACE

# Risk Of Thunder licensed to thrill

Andrew Longmore on a Punchestown chase that fosters its own folklore

**T**rust the Irish to write a lyrical poem about it. "With no time to reflect if your seat is correct, Riding theories can burst like a bubble. Just ram home your feet, and forget your right seat. When you're riding the Punchestown Double."

Like Becher's Brook, the Punchestown Double fosters its own folklore. Jumping it for 15 years." For the last three, he has ridden Risk Of Thunder to victory with an increasing degree of comfort.

Yesterday, the margin between him and Digacre at the finish was 15 lengths, but the race was all but over a mile from home. Risk Of Thunder produced such a prodigious leap over Ruby Walsh, the imitation bank built two years ago in front of the stands, that chears turned to gasps. No bank is supposed to be treated with such disdain.

"I've never known a horse to jump like that," Bolger said. "The enthusiasm and gift he has for these fences is extraordinary.

"He's electric. You would have to ride him to explain, but it's just a great feeling to be riding him and it's great for the race because we need runners for this race." The new cross-country course at Cheltenham has been modelled on Punchestown. But the race, tucked away in November, has not yet been fully accepted in England. "Donkey derby" it was christened after the inaugural running two years ago, an affront to the purity of National Hunt racing and a danger to horse and rider.

Connery was unable to be at Punchestown yesterday, but his purchase of Risk Of Thunder with the help of the ubiquitous P. P. McManus reflects an old-fashioned love of racing and a passion for a challenge. Had 007 been a jockey, he would have tackled the La Touche, probably in

In Ireland, the La Touche is

bow tie and dinner jacket and smoking a cigar.

In his absence, Enda Bolger did a fair impression of an armchair ride. It helps, he said, that he knows his way around the 33 fences.

There are so many twists and turns, you need a compass," he said. "But it helps that I have been riding round here for 15 years." For the last three, he has ridden Risk Of Thunder to victory with an increasing degree of comfort.

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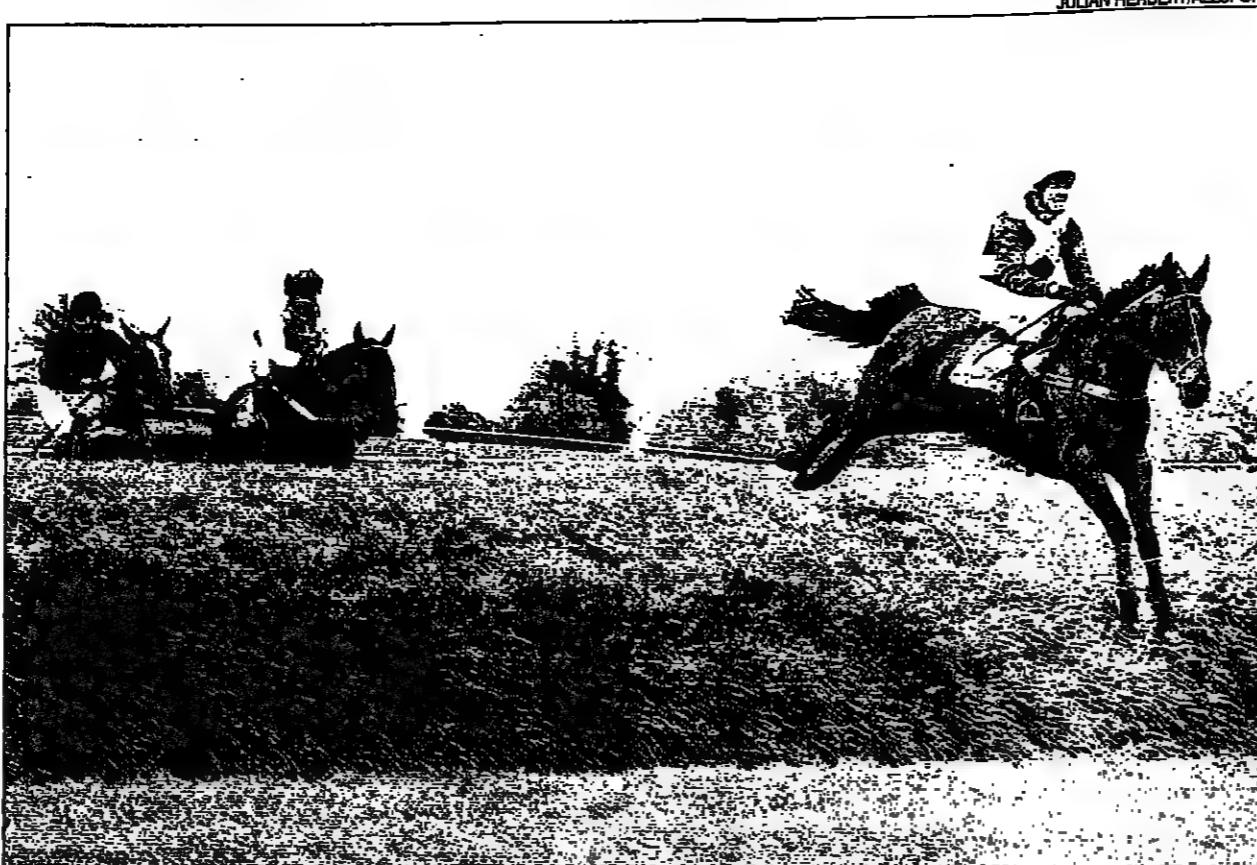
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Risk Of Thunder, ridden by Bolger, clears the bank on his way to an impressive victory at Punchestown yesterday

regarded as rather more than a wacky sideshow. This is the heart of National Hunt racing and rightly there is more than a doff of the cap to Percy La Touche, a banker who was born and raised locally, who bought up all the small farms at Punchestown and preserved them for jumping. Before La Touche, the race was run over the farmers' lands through ditches, over walls and hedges. Something of that spirit remains today.

The La Touche, which cele-

brated its 200th anniversary three years ago, is the second race on the final day of the biggest National Hunt festival in Ireland. It is the race many here regard as the highlight of the whole meeting. Not many jumps have a poem all to themselves.

A few more displays like yesterday and Risk Of Thunder will be immortalised in rhyming verse himself. The eight-year-old is beginning to capture the imagination of the Irish people in much the way

Danoli has on a wider scale. "On an ordinary park course, he is very ordinary. But show him the banks and he improves three stone," Bolger added. "He's just an amazing horse."

At the Double Bank, taken both ways, uphill first and downhill second, Risk Of Thunder skipped onto the top of the six-foot bank and was away before the rest had found their feet.

It was quite a spectacle as the uncertain tall-jockeys skid-

## First Island can make winning return to action

FINDING a suitable entry for a high-class older horse is often fraught with complications. But Geoff Wragg, who trains First Island, can have afforded a wry smile when he scrutinised entrants for the Sandown Mile (3.10) — to be shown live on Channel 4 this afternoon.

Bin Rosie and Beauchamp King tackle First Island in unfavourable circumstances. Bin Rosie lacks the skills of Frankie Dettori, while Beauchamp King's Craven Stakes defeat of Alcazar is a memory 12 months distant.

The equation is complicated by the 6lb penalty that First Island shoulders for his emphatic Sussex Stakes victory. But he should still be good enough to concede the weight. Wixim, a lightly-raced and improving colt, may pose the biggest threat, though he would prefer a softer surface.

So the path looks clear for First Island to pick up where he signed off last term — with victory in a valuable event in Hong Kong. He has been galloping with enthusiasm on Newmarket Heath and his fine record immediately after the winter recess reassures his chance.

Mollers Racing, which owns First Island, can reap a further dividend with Greenaway Bay, a son of Green Dancer who tackles the Tudor Conditions Stakes (2.35).



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

first juvenile runner, Ochi Verdi, ran out an impressive winner at Ripon.

2.35: see above

3.10: see above

3.40: Northern Fleet should go well despite the maximum impost — he is one of the few still progressing. Shadruwan won handsomely on his reappearance last season and is reunited with Richard Quinn. However, he looks harshly handicapped and Jamaican Flight is preferred. He is fit from hurdling and starts the campaign on a reasonable mark.

ASCOT  
BBC2

5.30: Merlin's Dream should be hard to beat with Robert Thornton aboard. At these weights, Danger Baby has



RICHARD EVANS  
Nap: KOMI  
(2.35 Sandown Park)  
Next best: Influence Pedler  
(7.05 Ascot)

Wragg: found opening

White's Crucible could be

CARLISLE

Latajonna silenced decent prospects after finishing within 4½ lengths of the selection at Worcester, but that line may prove misleading. Auto Pilot and Drummullen may be compromised by their lengthy absences.

6.00: Serious came down when poised to challenge on this course two weeks ago. He can underline his misfortune by accounting for I'm A Dreamer, Albermine and Dancing Paddy — respectively first, third and fourth in that event. This is a tougher heat, however, and Darakshan, an improving sort, looks well handicapped. John Drummond is progressing and looks a big danger.

6.30: Boots N All looks worth following off his present rating. He handles fast ground and reposes Cardinal Rule, his four-length Hereford conqueror in February, on 14lb better terms. With Prerogative seemingly anchored by top weight, Steazey has better-place prospects.

JULIAN MUSCAT

## SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER  
2.05 Daunting Lady  
2.35 Harry Wolton  
3.10 First Island  
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.35 Komi, 3.10 First Island.  
4.45 ALCALALI (resp.)

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS  
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

## 2.05 ALBERT MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN

FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-O; £3,565; 50; 15 runners)  
101 (13) 0 AFTER DAWN 1 (6) One (Over The Edge) Mr P O'Neill 6-11 J. O'Brien 11  
102 (11) BLAINEY (Pony) (Damer Park Racing Club) C Dwyer 6-11 K. Fallon  
103 (9) DAUNTING LADY (7) (Dame) R. Hennem 6-11  
104 (8) FAIR TEST (Mr. Mc Palfrey) 6 (Palfrey) 6-11 T. Moore 6-11  
105 (12) FLEET LEAD 13 (Dame) P. Doherty 6-11 J. Hills 6-11  
106 (14) 5 FLEET LEAD 13 (Dame) P. Doherty 6-11 S. Davies 6-11  
107 (7) MISS HIT (P. Goffin) Miss E. Holden 6-11 J. Wexler 6-11  
108 (2) PATSY'S STYLISH (Fungi) Cuffe Recording M. Johnston 6-11  
109 (12) PONY 1 (Dame) Mrs. J. P. McManus 6-11 J. O'Brien 6-11  
110 (9) SPARKLES (J. P. McManus) Mrs. J. W. McManus 6-11 M. McManus 6-11  
111 (8) SUN IN THE MORNING (Mrs D. H. Utley) 6-11 J. Hills 6-11  
112 (10) TUNDRA (H. Kersey) & McManus 6-11 J. Hills 6-11  
113 (4) UNIVERSAL LADY (McManus) 6-11 J. Hills 6-11  
BETTING: 1-1 Miss Hit, 2-1 Palfrey 6-11; 3-1 Palfrey, 4-1 Utley, 5-1 McManus, 6-11 McManus, 7-1 Doherty, 8-1 Palfrey, 9-1 McManus, 10-1 Utley, 11-1 McManus, 12-1 McManus, 13-1 McManus, 14-1 McManus, 15-1 McManus, 16-1 McManus, 17-1 McManus, 18-1 McManus, 19-1 McManus, 20-1 McManus, 21-1 McManus, 22-1 McManus, 23-1 McManus, 24-1 McManus, 25-1 McManus, 26-1 McManus, 27-1 McManus, 28-1 McManus, 29-1 McManus, 30-1 McManus, 31-1 McManus, 32-1 McManus, 33-1 McManus, 34-1 McManus, 35-1 McManus, 36-1 McManus, 37-1 McManus, 38-1 McManus, 39-1 McManus, 40-1 McManus, 41-1 McManus, 42-1 McManus, 43-1 McManus, 44-1 McManus, 45-1 McManus, 46-1 McManus, 47-1 McManus, 48-1 McManus, 49-1 McManus, 50-1 McManus, 51-1 McManus, 52-1 McManus, 53-1 McManus, 54-1 McManus, 55-1 McManus, 56-1 McManus, 57-1 McManus, 58-1 McManus, 59-1 McManus, 60-1 McManus, 61-1 McManus, 62-1 McManus, 63-1 McManus, 64-1 McManus, 65-1 McManus, 66-1 McManus, 67-1 McManus, 68-1 McManus, 69-1 McManus, 70-1 McManus, 71-1 McManus, 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## SNOOKER

# White's nights of Crucible battles could be at an end

By PHIL YATES

THE Embassy world champion without Jimmy White is like the Open Champion without Jack Nicklaus, but the possibility exists that the player most synonymous with Crucible Theatre heartache will be missing from the event 12 months hence.

White's 10-9 defeat by Anthony Hamilton late on Wednesday, after a gripping first-round tussle, guaranteed his relegation from the game's top 16 after a 15-year spell.

Unthinkably, White, six times the runner-up at the championship but never the winner, will be required to negotiate a qualifying match in order to return next year. In addition, he must also qualify for the final stages of all overseas world ranking tournaments.

White's third failure to clear his opening hurdle in 17 visits to the Crucible was a fitting culmination to a season in which he has suffered personal, financial and professional turmoil. While still coming to terms with the death of his brother and, a few months later, his mother, White was declared bankrupt over an inland Revenue debt.

He lost his first 11 outings of the campaign and, after an unexpected defeat at the hands of Dylan Leary at the Regal Welsh Open in January, he slipped to 36th in the provisional standings. Appearances in the quarter-finals of the International Open and the last 16 of the European Open and Thailand Open in recent weeks suggested that his best form of the year could coincide with his arrival in Sheffield, but that did not transpire.

When White artistically constructed a 125 clearance on the

way to leading 6-3, then moved 8-4 ahead, a second-round match against John Parrott beckoned, but Hamilton then outscored him 35-31 in winning the next four frames to level at 8-8.

In the decider, White led 37-13, but in escaping a snooker, he presented Hamilton with a clear opportunity. Capitalising to the full, he constructed a 54 break to earn a 16-16 place of his own.

The loser's cheque for £9,450 swelled White's total prize-money for 1996-97 to £68,475. That represents the poorest remuneration that he has received for a season since turning professional after becoming world amateur champion in 1980.

"I'm convinced Jimmy will bounce straight back into the top ten; he's hitting the ball as well as ever; he just needs a bit of self-belief again," Hamilton said, offering words of encouragement. However, it remains to be seen whether White will

return from snooker's lengthy summer recess thinking quite so positively.

Steve Davis, a contemporary of White who is holding back the tide of youth to greater effect, believes that a fitness regime would be of immense benefit for the player with whom he battled for supremacy throughout the 1980s. "Looking at Jimmy, I think that could be a solution," Davis said. "It's helped me enormously and it could do the same for him."

"As you get older, you have to use anything you can to stay up there. There's nothing wrong with his game, his temperament or his approach, so he's got to look at what else there is. Being fit doesn't make you put more balls, but it makes you feel better."

James Wattana, the No 12 seed, was fully extended before edging past Graeme Dott, 19, Wattana, from Thailand, who compiled a 53 break in the decider to seal victory after Dott had missed a tricky red to a middle pocket, goes forward to face Stephen Lee, the conqueror of Nigel Bond.

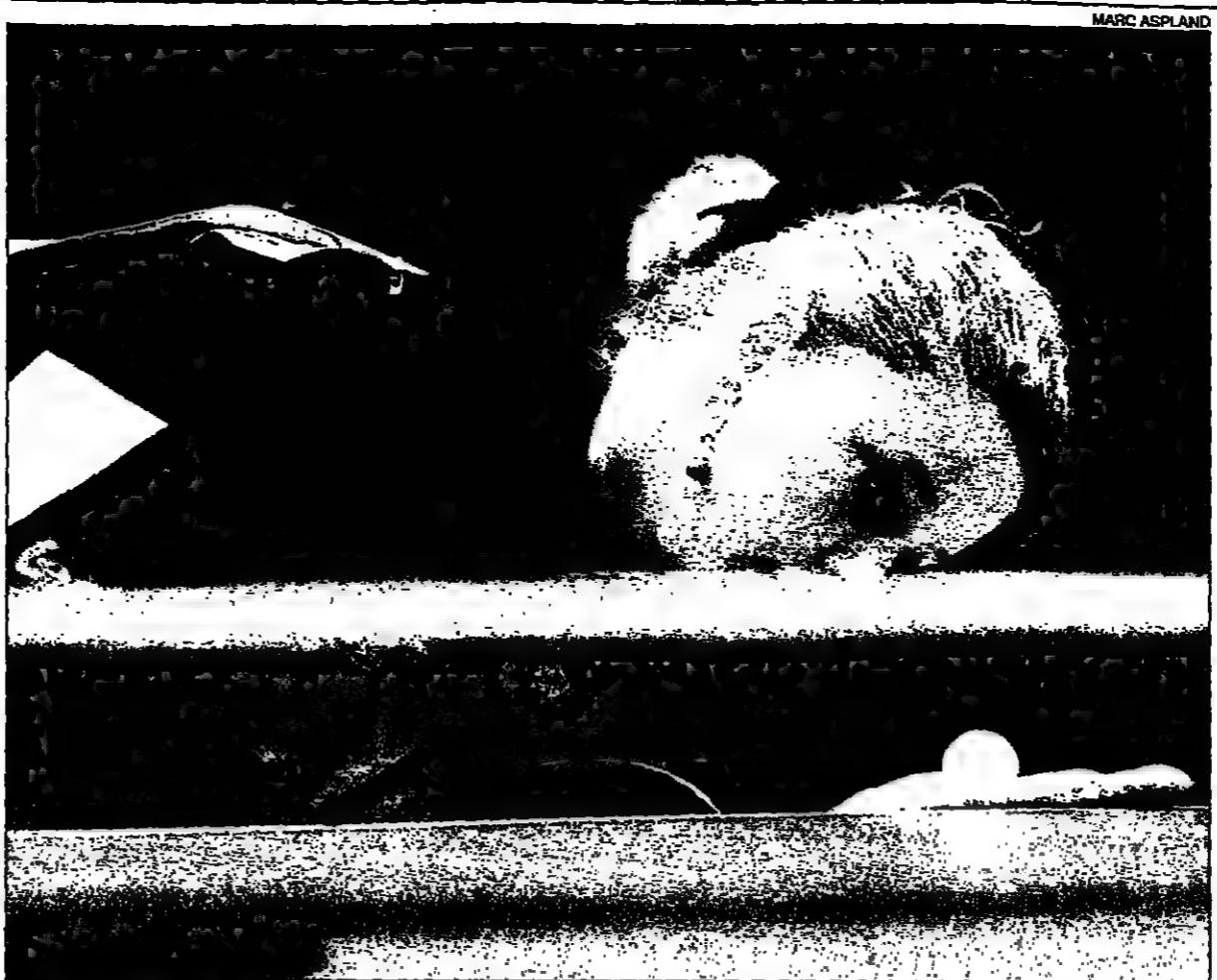
Leading 7-4 and 51-0 in the twelfth frame, Wattana was cruising. Dott, 19, the youngest competitor in the final stages of the championship this year, stole it on the blue and forged 8-7 ahead, but, as the finishing line drew closer, he became increasingly prone to unforced errors.

The second round got underway yesterday, with Lee Walker and Alan McManus sharing the first of their three sessions 4-4.

**RESULTS** First round (best of 19 frames): A Hamilton (Eng) 10-9 J Wattana (Tha) 9-10 G Dott (Eng) 10-9 D Daley (Wales) leads A Drago (Mala) 8-5 Second round (best of 25): A McManus (Scot) level with L Walker (Wales) 4-4



White: elite no longer



Cecilia Ozer, of Belgium, prepares to serve during her first-round defeat by Galina Melnik, of Russia

## Syed offers reasons to be cheerful

By RICHARD EATON

RARELY has a sporting story offered as many twists and sub-plots as did the opening day of the world table tennis championships in Manchester yesterday. With 44 tables often in simultaneous use, three players in the world's top ten were beaten. Sweden's hopes of regaining the men's team title suffered a scare and two fine wins for Matthew Syed helped England to an encouraging 3-1 win over the Czech Republic as they began their campaign for survival in the top group of the 108-nation tournament.

Ding Song, the defensive-minded No 7 from China, was sensational-

ly beaten by Robert Smrekar, of Slovenia, but there was still never a likelihood of the world champions being beaten; England's women were beaten 3-1 as Lithuania avenged themselves for their defeat in the last world championships in Tianjin; and two well-known brothers suffered a rare contrast in fortunes. You needed eyes in the back of your head to keep up with it all.

Jean-Michel Saive, the world No 1 only 15 months ago, was beaten twice as Belarus threatened to upset the powerful Belgians, but the younger Philippe Saive, so often overshadowed by Jean-Michel, enjoyed two big wins, one of them against the most-improved

player of 1996, the world No 4, Vladimir Sampsonov, and Belgium sneaked home 3-2. They are good enough to cause anyone problems.

Syed won 3-1, but this match nearly went the full distance. The coach, Ulf Carlsson, is so concerned to rest his brilliant but ailing stars that he risked leaving out both the former Olympic champion, Jan-Ove Waldner, and the former European bronze medal-winner, Peter Karlsson. One of the replacements, Thomas Von Scheele, lost, and another, Kayode Kadiri, almost did, threatening to allow the match to go rather shakily to a final encounter. Fortunately for them, Jorgen Persson, the former world champion,

was in solid form, winning twice.

While the defeat for England's women was disappointing, with Lisa Lomas, the former European championship silver medal-winner, looking uncomfortable and losing twice, Syed, last week's winner of the Commonwealth men's championship, was determinedly effective, as was Alan Cooke, the runner-up in the Commonwealth tournament, looping his topspins energetically to beat Josef Plachy. Syed outmanoeuvred the fierce-hitting Richard Vyborny and the Olympic semi-finalist, Petr Korbek. It was a good start, but there is still a long way to go to ensure survival.

## YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

**Beverley** Going: good to firm

**Carlisle** 2.00 Double Agent 2.45 Eternal City 3.15 Unguided Missile 3.30 Six Clerks 4.20 Solomon's Dancer 4.35 General Manager 5.25 Light The Fuse

**GOING, GOOG** SIS

**Perth** 3.50 SCOTTISH SUN MADE IN SCOTLAND FOR SCOTLAND NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (S.3.833, 2m 110yds) (14)

1 4488 THE STUPID FAWN 2 C Menz 6-11-18... R Gaed

2 0081 JESSOLLE 18 (G) Roberts 6-11-18... R Denwood

3 1148 LAST TRY 24 (G) B Rehewell 6-11-18... A E Smith

4 0002 SPIDER 18 (G) J Riddell 6-11-18... D J Macmillan

5 0143 BRANDON 18 (G) S Morris 6-11-18... P Carnaby

6 2125 SILVER CLIFFES 2 (G) J Fitzgerald 4-11-18... D Parker

7 2253 SHINNERS 26 C Parker 5-10-11... L Whye

8 0481 READING WITH A PLATE 24 (G) J Fozzard 5-10-17... L Whye

9 0012 MONTAGUE CASTLE 24 (G) J Fozzard 5-10-17... L Whye

10 0025 TUNBRIDGE WELLS 24 (G) J Fozzard 5-10-17... L Whye

F. Leadby (3) W. Denwood (7)

11 3402 PARSONS LODGE 25 (G) J Johnson 5-10-15... P Denwood

12 2260 FARLANGE 25 (G) J Fozzard 5-10-14... D. O'Brien

13 0026 REACH THE CLOUDS 32 J Jesus 5-10-13... R Bepple

14 0025 STAR MASTER 25 (G) J Jesus 5-10-13... R Bepple

15 0026 TUNBRIDGE WELLS 24 (G) J Fozzard 5-10-17... L Whye

16 0401 (1) 2000 1. GOING FOR BRAKES (J) Fortune 15-8... 2. Double Agent (P) Eddie 15-8... 3. Six Clerks (R) Carlsson 15-8... 4. Light The Fuse (F) Fozzard 15-8... 5. Solomon's Dancer (S) Fozzard 15-8... 6. Six Clerks (C) Fozzard 15-8... 7. Stupid Fawn (G) Fozzard 15-8... 8. Unguided Missile (M) Fozzard 15-8... 9. Shinners (L) Fozzard 15-8... 10. Spider (D) Fozzard 15-8... 11. Last Try (B) Fozzard 15-8... 12. Montague Castle (N) Fozzard 15-8... 13. Tunbridge Wells (W) Fozzard 15-8... 14. Reading With A Plate (P) Fozzard 15-8... 15. Shining Cliffes (I) Fozzard 15-8... 16. Silvers Cliffs (O) Fozzard 15-8... 17. Shining Cliffes (Q) Fozzard 15-8... 18. Shinners (R) Fozzard 15-8... 19. Last Try (S) Fozzard 15-8... 20. Tunbridge Wells (T) Fozzard 15-8... 21. Stupid Fawn (U) Fozzard 15-8... 22. Double Agent (V) Fozzard 15-8... 23. Shining Cliffes (W) Fozzard 15-8... 24. Tunbridge Wells (X) Fozzard 15-8... 25. Last Try (Y) Fozzard 15-8... 26. Shinners (Z) Fozzard 15-8...

**4.20 ERNST & YOUNG NOVICES CHASE** (S.3.833, 2m 110yds) (4)

1 2225 SOLOMON'S DANCER 7 (G) Richards 7-11-18... R Denwood

2 4805 MALTA 25 (G) P Evans 7-11-18... A S Symes

3 2552 TALL MASSES 18 (G) S Stevens 7-11-18... L Whye

4 0026 WILTONS 18 (G) J Jesus 7-11-18... R Bepple

5 0026 TUNBRIDGE WELLS 24 (G) J Fozzard 5-10-17... L Whye

6 0401 (1) 2000 1. GOING FOR BRAKES (J) Fortune 15-8... 2. Double Agent (P) Eddie 15-8... 3. Six Clerks (R) Carlsson 15-8... 4. Light The Fuse (F) Fozzard 15-8... 5. Solomon's Dancer (S) Fozzard 15-8... 6. Six Clerks (C) Fozzard 15-8... 7. Stupid Fawn (G) Fozzard 15-8... 8. Unguided Missile (M) Fozzard 15-8... 9. Shinners (L) Fozzard 15-8... 10. Spider (D) Fozzard 15-8... 11. Last Try (B) Fozzard 15-8... 12. Montague Castle (N) Fozzard 15-8... 13. Tunbridge Wells (X) Fozzard 15-8... 14. Reading With A Plate (V) Fozzard 15-8... 15. Shining Cliffes (W) Fozzard 15-8... 16. Silvers Cliffs (Q) Fozzard 15-8... 17. Stupid Fawn (U) Fozzard 15-8... 18. Shinners (Z) Fozzard 15-8... 19. Last Try (Y) Fozzard 15-8... 20. Tunbridge Wells (T) Fozzard 15-8... 21. Stupid Fawn (U) Fozzard 15-8... 22. Double Agent (V) Fozzard 15-8... 23. Shining Cliffes (W) Fozzard 15-8... 24. Tunbridge Wells (X) Fozzard 15-8... 25. Last Try (Y) Fozzard 15-8... 26. Shinners (Z) Fozzard 15-8...

**2.45 SCOTTISH NEWS OF THE WORLD CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE** (S.3.04, 2m 41 110yds) (19)

1 3314 FAULFIELD 25 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

2 0471 FAULFIELD 25 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

3 0472 FAULFIELD 25 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

4 0205 ETERNAL CITY 34 (G) S Morris 6-11-18... P Carnaby

5 1492 STRATHMORE 32 (G) S Morris 6-11-18... P Carnaby

6 2819 PLAYTIME 40 (G) J Lynch 9-11-18... E. Smith

7 0024 PUPPI 26 (G) S Morris 6-11-18... P Carnaby

8 0024 PUPPI 26 (G) S Morris 6-11-18... P Carnaby

9 0024 PUPPI 26 (G) S Morris 6-11-18... P Carnaby

10 0024 PUPPI 26 (G) S Morris 6-11-18... P Carnaby

11 0024 CLASSIC VICTORY 42 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

12 0024 CLASSIC VICTORY 42 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

13 0024 CLASSIC VICTORY 42 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

14 0024 CLASSIC VICTORY 42 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

15 0024 CLASSIC VICTORY 42 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

16 0024 CLASSIC VICTORY 42 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

17 0024 CLASSIC VICTORY 42 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

18 0024 CLASSIC VICTORY 42 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

19 0024 CLASSIC VICTORY 42 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

20 0024 CLASSIC VICTORY 42 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

21 0024 CLASSIC VICTORY 42 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

22 0024 CLASSIC VICTORY 42 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

23 0024 CLASSIC VICTORY 42 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

24 0024 CLASSIC VICTORY 42 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

25 0024 CLASSIC VICTORY 42 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

26 0024 CLASSIC VICTORY 42 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

27 0024 CLASSIC VICTORY 42 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

28 0024 CLASSIC VICTORY 42 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

29 0024 CLASSIC VICTORY 42 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

30 0024 CLASSIC VICTORY 42 (G) F. Smith 9-12-18... R Denwood

31 00

## FOOTBALL

# Cole's net failure gives Ferguson scope to reshuffle

BY OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS ten days ago, between the two 1-0 defeats by Borussia Dortmund which ended Manchester United's latest attempt to win the European Cup, that Alex Ferguson, their manager, bounded on to a stage at the Grosvenor House Hotel, in London, with an envelope in his hands and three names to read out.

As guest of honour at the Professional Footballers' Association annual dinner, he was about to announce the association's player of the year, and a wry smile spread across his face when he came to the identity of the winner. "It's Alan Shearer," he said. "I've tried to sign him twice. He's the only player I'd break the bank for."

In the empty shell of Old Trafford, late on Wednesday, Ferguson's words seemed to be boomerang out across the stadium like a great lament for the missing ingredient that could have taken United on to Munich to face Juventus in the final on May 28.

Even allowing for the fact that they fell behind to an early goal from Lars Ricken, even allowing for the superb last-ditch defending of the unbreakable Jürgen Kohler, United went on to create so many chances that they should have been able to outrun their guests even if Dortmund had scored twice in the Theatre of Dreams.

Instead, when opportunity knocked, United recoiled. Cantona was guilty of two abject misses. Pallister was wide with a simple header. Cole shot twice into the side-netting when he should have scored, and Giggs, still embarrassingly one-footed for such a talented player, sliced a right-foot horribly wide.

As Ferguson pointed out, it was not that United were outplayed or out-thought by Dortmund in either leg. Far

from it. They went at them like a whirlwind and they should have torn them down, but they had nobody to finish the opening that they made. With Shearer in the team — perhaps even with Les Ferdinand, Ian Wright or Robbie Fowler — they may have been preparing for the final now.

Apart from the issue of whether Cantona is now past his best and, furthermore, going downhill fast, United also seem to be in danger of slipping back into the situation that dogged Ron Atkinson for so long while he was in charge not having a goal-poaching striker capable of scoring 30 goals a season.

Cole was supposed to be the solution to that problem when he was brought from Newcastle United for £7 million, but clogged by lack of confidence and injury, he has performed only fitfully, ironically, against Dortmund on Wednesday and against Liverpool last Saturday, he looked sharp and hungry. United's most threatening presence, but still there is a suspicion that, at European level in particular, his touch will let him down.

Gradually, his admirers are

saying, Cole is becoming a more complete footballer, but that is not what United bought him for. They bought him to be a predatory striker, not a creator for others, and, despite Ferguson's admirable loyalty towards him, the time may be coming when he will listen to offers from other clubs.

Ole Gunnar Solskjær, too, has performed creditably in his first year in English football, well enough in tandem with Cole and Cantona to take United to the brink of their fourth FA Carling Premiership title in five years. In European terms, though, he is still learning his trade and his was a peripheral presence on Wednesday.

Ferguson, however, was in a cheerful, upbeat mood yesterday, full of hope for an assault on the Champions League next season, confident that only slight modifications are needed to push United towards winning the trophy on the thirtieth anniversary of the triumph of Best, Charlton and the rest.

"I am not considering making wholesale changes," Ferguson said. "When you analyse our games in Europe, we lost five matches 1-0. Three of them were defeated goals and one was a penalty, so how far away are we?

"There will be changes and some will come from within. Others may come from outside, but the players know that is not a criticism of them. The bus just moves on to the next stop. That is nothing new here.

"We know we should be going to the European Cup final. I sat up watching the video and it was like watching the video of a whole season — we missed as many chances."

In the light of that, "How far away are we?" suddenly becomes a lot simpler to answer. Just as far away as a striker who would break the bank.



Di Canio, shadowed by two Falkirk defenders, was one of the few Celtic players able to handle the pressure

## Burns left waiting for axe to fall

BY KEVIN McCARRA

IT WAS fitting that Celtic's perfunctory performance in their abject 1-0 defeat by Falkirk in the Tennents Scottish Cup semi-final replay should meet with token protest. At full-time on Wednesday, their supporters booted briefly, but showed a greater desire to be away from Ibrox, out of the rain and far from the shame.

Although the emotional reaction was deep, it did not encompass rage. Instead, there was sadness among fans who had seen Celtic flunk yet another test and regret that one of the club's most favoured figures will almost certainly be discarded. Tommy Burns, appointed as manager in 1994, must have suffered the last failure of his tenure.

There will, all the same, be no leave-taking for the moment. Fergie McCann, the managing director, merely

confirmed that the plan to review operations in the close season had not been altered by the defeat. Burns himself has no intention of slipping away quietly.

"I will not be resigning," he said. "I can either walk away or stay and try and change it. I intend to stay and change it." The decision, however, is not in his own hands. Instead of sacking Burns, Celtic need only wait until his contract expires in the summer and then decline to renew it.

The only hope for Burns is that another job could be found for him in a revamped structure at Celtic. There is a faint possibility that he will benefit from a residue of affection. His team has often been entertaining and his engaging personality has given the club an appealing public face. His record, however, conceals progress rather than demonstrating it. Celtic lost the 1994 Coca-Cola Cup to

Raith Rovers, a club then resident in the Bell's Scottish League first division. Falkirk too, live in that humble milieu. The Scottish Cup of 1995 is the only trophy so far collected by Burns. Rangers are about to take the premier division title for a ninth successive year.

The financial resurgence of Celtic, with their 40,000 season ticket-holders, makes the prafis of the team all the more difficult for supporters and directors to tolerate. Each failure intensifies the strain on the players. Burns attempted to halt that escalating anxiety by replacing the squad he inherited with fresh, untainted signings, but they, too, have become trapped in the shame.

The only hope for Burns is that another job could be found for him in a revamped structure at Celtic. There is a faint possibility that he will benefit from a residue of affection. His team has often been entertaining and his engaging personality has given the club an appealing public face. His record, however, conceals progress rather than demonstrating it. Celtic lost the 1994 Coca-Cola Cup to

luck, but the team from Brockville were never close to being overwhelmed.

The weakness of Falkirk can be exaggerated, and their side is hardly to be treated as amateurs. Seven of its members have played in the premier division and the splendid Andy Gray was once capped by England.

Victory over a Falkirk team that now meets Kilmarnock in the final would, for all that, have been the inevitable consequence of even a moderate performance by Celtic. "We live or die by success, and unfortunately, some of the players can't handle that pressure," Burns admitted.

This frail team, in which Paul di Canio's display evinced self-belief, was, though, built by the manager at a cost of some £15 million. The problems of remedying the ills are great, but it is a challenge that Burns will surely not survive to meet.

## FIRST ROUND

LEADING EARLY SCORERS (GB and Ireland) (last season) 86 P. Harrington, A. Calvo (Spa), G. Emerson, M. J. Quinn (Ire), D. James (Eng), I. Gauci (Malta), T. Brem (Den), B. Lane, B. C. Whiston (Eng), L. Wesswood, G. Norman (Aus), J. M. Gómez (Spa), P. Lumb (Eng), J. García (Spa), P. Roche (Irl), P. McEvoy (Irl), R. Chapman, R. Muñoz (Mdl), D. Carter, A. Braga (B), R. Davis (Aus), D. Howell, A. Hidalgo (Spa), R. Pérez (Spa), S. B. Simeone (Spa), D. Gálvez, M. Jordan (Gren), P. Eales, J. P. Pérez (Spa), F. Cas (Spa), D. Mignani, T. Gómez (Grl), P. J. J. L. Gómez (Peru), T. Gómez (Spa), P. C. García (Spa), L. Luna (Peru), P. López (Peru), C. Wenceslao, S. Gómez (Peru), P. J. Fernández (Grl), M. A. Martín (Grl), A. Cárdenas, V. Riley (Aus), A. Sherburne, P. Lowe, P. McEvoy (Irl), J. Gómez (Spa), J. Gómez (Grl), E. Cárdenas (B), G. Turner (NZ), A. Cabrera (Arg), A. Garrido (Spa), G. Cárdenas, J. Jaén, J. Alarcón (Peru), N. Biggs, D. Robertson, J. Van de Velde (Belgium), J. Gómez (Spa), J. Gómez (Peru), J. Gómez (Grl), A. Oldcorn, J. Gómez (Spa), J. Hawkes (SA) G. Orr, M. Moulard, J. Coopers (Arg), P. Alcock, J. Lomas. \* denotes amateur

## CONFIDENTIAL

confidence ingrained in it. The difference was almost indefinable, but it was there all right.

They all know about tainted triumphs on three of the first four holes. In the morning, he had had an intensive session on the range with Butch Harmon, the American coach who is on a busman's holiday at Chéz Ballesteros, and the destructive inaccuracy with woods and irons that has beleaguered Ballesteros this year was blessedly less evident in a round that contained six birdies.

"I have hit some good shots today, and I feel more happy with my game," he said. "I have won in the Seventies, the Eighties and the Nineties, and I am very confident I will win again in the Two Thousands." As statements of intent go, it was pretty unequivocal.

Greg Norman, who was bracketed with José María Olazábal on three under par on his first visit to the Iberian peninsula for 15 years, had a tale of Spanish culture to tell. The evening before, he had been to his first bullfight, and Sebastian Palomo Linares, the matador, who is, apparently, the Plácido Domingo of the bullring, dedicated his kill to Norman.

"He offered me his hat, and I took it," Norman said. "I didn't know that he was paying me a compliment, and I didn't realize I had to give it back. He also invited me to go into the ring with a little bull, but I declined graciously."

Olazábal, sitting next door but one to him, chuckled. "I think you did the right thing," he said. So, one would imagine, do the sponsors of the tournament — and a certain Mrs Laura Norman.

## GOLF

## Spanish master back with a smile

FROM MEL WEBB  
IN MADRID

THERE have been false dawns before, but this time it really did look as if the sun might be poking its head above the horizon. Severiano Ballesteros had a comparatively modest 70 in the first round of the Spanish Open here yesterday, but, by the end of this season, it might just prove to be one of his more significant rounds of the year.

Ballesteros finished the day four shots behind Padraig Harrington, the defending champion, and Alex Cejka, and three adrift of Gary Emerson and Mark James, but the bald figures do not even begin to tell the story.

This was Ballesteros's thirteenth competitive round of the season, and it was the first time that he has beaten par. Yes, chorus the cynics, but it was by only two shots; he did have four bogeys; it's happened before, nothing has really changed; just watch him tomorrow.

They might be right — we shall see today — but the inescapable feeling was that the significant difference was demonstrated, not by the mechanics of hitting golf shots, but by Ballesteros's bearing.

No man wears his heart on his sleeve more than Ballesteros does. If he is feeling bad, the shoulders slump, the eyes hooded, he regards the world with suspicion. It was the way that he walked through 1996.

Yesterday, the back that has caused him so much agony over the years was straight, he looked his inquisitors straight in the face, his very gait had

## LEGAL &amp; PUBLIC NOTICES

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION  
Charity No: 2003 ANNE MCGUIGAN - Scheme: 1. Regulating

Reference No: CS-57044-CDX/01/01

The Commission for Child Charity, a copy of the register of charities, may be obtained from the Office of Anne M. McGuigan, 272 Green Lane, London NW10 5JL, or by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Albans, Herts SG9 9AQ quoting the above reference number and enclosing a self-addressed envelope within which you can receive a copy of the relevant section of the register within one month from today.

Charity Befriending and Support Services including recommendations

Reference No: CS-57044-CDX/01/01

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## LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MEETING OF CREDITORS UNDER SECTION 426 OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

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THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 25 1997

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## CRICKET

# Nixon provides reminder of champions' style

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

**LEICESTER** (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 54 runs behind Leicestershire

There were many times last year when the majority questioned Leicestershire's ability to win the championship, and the same old doubts have resurfaced on each of the first two days of this new season. However, the mark of champions is to win when playing poorly, and that is what should now happen here.

An hour after lunch yesterday, Leicestershire's prospects were as bleak as the skies over Grace Road. Their last pair were together and they trailed Gloucestershire, a team surely bound for the wrong end of the table by 39 runs. On a pitch where the odd ball keeps disconcertingly low, this was an unpromising position.

The legacies of winning the title, however, include an unquenchable spirit and, here, it was exemplified by Paul Nixon. For more than two hours, this virtue was restated in a last-wicket stand that adjourned on 99, when bad light drew a merciful veil over Gloucestershire's efforts, and finally totalled 101.

Nixon is a combative player, one of the best batting wicketkeepers around, and few will be surprised by his contribution. For a partner, however, he had the fledgeling James Ormond, whose known credentials can be gauged



Maddy: frustration

## Sri Lanka lose spinner

**MUTTIAH** Muralitharan, the only Sri Lanka bowler to have taken more than 100 Test wickets, has been ruled out of the second Test match against Pakistan, which starts in Colombo tomorrow.

Muralitharan has strained a muscle near his rib cage. He has been replaced by Ruwan Kalpagam, the off-spinner, in a 14-man squad for the final match in a two-game series. Another casualty is Nuwan

from the fact that he batted behind Alan Mullally. The order may rapidly be revised, for Ormond showed poise, patience and a serviceable technique while making 35 in his initial first-class innings.

Without him, their bowling has no edge and, although April is hardly the time to condemn, Shaun Young does not look the man to provide it. He did not take a wicket here and looked more support than spearhead. His pace is comparable with that of Mike Smith and, for 28 overs against the last pair, he was not even used. No wonder the county is keen to believe in David Lawrence's comeback.

They have, at least, been competitive in this game, even if it is difficult to see where any weight of runs and wickets will come from over the summer. Alleyne, the new captain, was their best bowler, maintaining a fuller, more effective length than Leicestershire had done on Wednesday and taking his third wicket when he knocked out James Whitaker's middle stump.

Though nothing happened too quickly on this surface, the ball swung and seamed appreciably and only Darren Maddy proceeded without problems. He made 80 in four hours, and the disgust he displayed after toe-ending a slip catch from a ball he need not have played was a measure of his ambition — this he viewed as a lost opportunity rather than a comfortable start to the season.

A poorly-conceived cut from Macmillan had given Hancock a rare wicket and, after lunch, spin gained its first reward when Martyn Ball took two wickets in successive overs. The Gloucestershire batsmen began their limbering up, but they were still going through the motions after the delayed tea interval had come and gone.

When their chance came at last, only two overs were possible before the light closed in again. However, weather permitting, this is a game the champions believe they will win.

**HOVE** (second day of four): Sussex, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 29 runs ahead of Northamptonshire

THE trouble with some English cricketers is that they never know when they are finished. A year ago, Neil Taylor was apparently in the twilight of his career, his superfluity to a Kent side about to mount a sustained challenge for the championship betrayed by his appointment as second XI captain. He did not play a first-team match all summer.

Sussex, though, remembered Taylor's pedigree when they cast about frantically for recruits during the winter. While Alan Wells went from Hove to Canterbury, Taylor eagerly made the reverse journey, and it may not be such a ludicrously one-sided exchange as some first thought. Yesterday, Taylor scored 127

to help Sussex to keep their noses in front in their match with Northamptonshire.

This was the second time that Taylor, 37, has scored a century on his first-class debut for a county, having done so for Kent against the touring Sri Lankans 18 years ago. The last Sussex man to mark his first appearance with a hundred was Hugh Bartlett, 60 years ago. Taylor now has 43 centuries to his credit, the same number as Wells — and Taylor has played 516 innings to Wells's 533.

At Kent, Taylor was believed to be the victim of a personality clash with Daryl Foster, then the coach. He was perceived to have a weakness against fast bowling, but there was no sign of it yesterday as he hooked, pulled and drove Mohammad Akram, who did not justify claims that he is quicker than Wasim and Waqar, but was nevertheless decidedly sharp.

No less significant, perhaps, to Sussex's long-term prosperity was the batting of Keith Newell, who confirmed his promise with a championship-best 91 not out. He arrived at the crease after Akram, having removed Greenfield in his first spell, had returned to

"If you average 40 in first-class cricket, you just cannot be a bad player of fast bowling," Tony Pigott, the acting chief executive of Sussex, said. "There's nowhere to hide when you do that much batting. Neil is just what we need. He is greedy for runs and will bat all day for us."

Taylor has something of a reputation for slow scoring, but he was no slouch yesterday and moved from 104 to 122 courtesy of four boundaries in one over from Snape, who, like Emburey, found a dry pitch offering frustratingly little turn. Taylor hit 20 fours and a six in a stay of little more than four hours at the crease.

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extract Athey. With Sussex on 137 for three, Northamptonshire might have poured through the breach, but Newell stayed firm then and for the next four hours.

It was a frustrating day for Northamptonshire, who found their opponents far less pliant than expected. Only the fielders did not make the same use of it as on Wednesday.

And neither batsman let them. Also, Prichard made his second half-century in successive days and Gooch, too, was in some form.

To think that Law, a batsman who made 12 centuries last season, one in which he spent a month in Sri Lanka, is not considered among Australia's best 17 cricketers. However many runs Matthew Hayden thinks he will score this summer, Law is likely to manage even more. Essex, with the exception of Hugh Page a decade ago, have not erred when choosing their overseas players.

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with Irani in the afternoon, which in all probability will prove to be the decisive partnership of the match. There

was still some help for Hampshire's attack both in the pitch and the atmosphere: the difference now was that their bowlers did not make the same use of it as on Wednesday.

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He had twice square cut Stephenson, his old opening partner, to the boundary when in the same over, he shuffled in front of a straight one and was leg-before. Hussain, likewise, did not manage to build a substantial innings, James having him leg-before. It should be said that he was well forward.

After lunch, Law, partnered first by Prichard and then by Irani, inexorably built up a considerable lead. Law arrived in Essex from Australia only the day before this match, but jet lagged or not, he struck 12 fours in an innings of 78 of 89 balls.

Tiredness, frustration with having to contend with a fielder on the boundary at point, or, perhaps, the sheer ease with which he was making his runs, led to his dismissal. Looking to flick a short ball from Stephenson over the slips, Law was taken at the wicket. It had been a lovely innings.

Irani's concern after that must have been that he would run out of partners. Robinson went first ball and Danny Law was nicely taken by Keesh at second slip. Hyam also followed but Iltot provided the necessary support. At the close, Irani was five runs short of a century, having struck 14 fours off 163 balls. And most of them were struck pretty hard.

In the morning, Essex had gained a first-innings lead of 85 when they removed the last three Hampshire batsmen. Iltot took two wickets and the gangly Cowan had Ayimes taken by Hyam, beaten by the bounce. That gave Cowan career best figures of five for 49.

Fully recovered from a toe operation, he is, as the cricket magazines like to say, one to watch. Graham Gooch respects his ability and that is above all others.

There should be more wickets for him today, when Hampshire will be left to make a total of around 500 to win. It is the ideal opportunity for Hayden to show that he, too, should not have been omitted from Australia's touring party.



Taylor cracks Snape for four through the off side at Hove yesterday on his way to a century for Sussex

## Taylor made for second coming

BY SIMON WILDE

**Law makes haste to confirm his attacking reputation**

BY IVO TENNANT

**CHELMSFORD** (second day of four): Essex, with three second-innings wickets in hand, are 458 runs ahead of Hampshire

ESSEX captains, when they are pressed as to their prospects of winning a championship, tend to speak in football jargon. In Paul Prichard's estimation, to say nothing of that of the bookmakers, they do indeed have a chance. That is not least because they possess batsmen such as Ronnie Irani and Stuart Law who can, as they showed yesterday, score runs with alacrity.

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Law added 128 in 165 balls with Irani in the afternoon, which in all probability will prove to be the decisive partnership of the match. There was still some help for Hampshire's attack both in the pitch and the atmosphere: the difference now was that their bowlers did not make the same use of it as on Wednesday.

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## THE TIMES

# An unmissable West End theatre offer

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## Brain before bravado puts DeFreitas in control

BY PAT GIBSON

**CANTERBURY** (second day of four): Kent, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 177 runs ahead of Derbyshire

THERE was a time when Phillip DeFreitas would have reacted to the sight of Devon Malcolm and Martin McCague hurling down their thunderbolts by trying to prove that he could bowl as fast as either of them. Not any more.

They still call him "Daffy", but he bowls with more brain than bravado these days and it is just as well for Derbyshire that he does, otherwise Trevor Ward, of Kent, arguably the best uncapped batsman in the country, would have taken this game away from them by now.

Ward could yet do that because he was still going strong on 95 at the close, but at least DeFreitas has given Derbyshire a fighting chance with a high-class exhibition of seam bowling that brought him four wickets, three of them, all leg before, in the space of five balls.

It was in total contrast to what had gone before.

McCague had answered Malcolm's six for 74 by bowling with just as much pace and hostility and, when he took his fourth wicket with his first ball yesterday to reduce Derbyshire to 44 for five, it looked as though it was all going to down to the speed merchants.

Then Clarke, making a good impression in his first championship innings for his third county, and Cork, showing that, whatever is ailing him, there is nothing wrong with his spirit, applied the brake in a six-wicket partnership of 65.

Both eventually fell to Headley, who bowled some fairly rapid balls of his own, but he could not shake Krikken, the wicketkeeper with the farmer's gait and the town crier's bellow, who epitomises the commitment of this Derbyshire side.

Strang's leg spin, deployed for the first time in county cricket, was treated with something close to contempt whenever it was pitched short as Krikken clubbed nine fours in 61 before Strang took his revenge by running him out with a direct hit from back-

ward point. By then, however, DeFreitas had helped Krikken to add valuable runs and, when the dedicated Dean and the flattening Malcolm put on an improbable 31, the last five wickets had produced 204 runs and trimmed Kent's lead to a mere three.

All eyes then turned to Malcom again, but sadly the magic of the previous day had left him already. He did strike one blow on Fulton's little finger that forced the opener to retire hurt, but it was not until DeFreitas was introduced that Derbyshire got a wicket.

Llong, who had taken 49 minutes to get off the mark, was deceived by his slower ball and caught at cover and then the returning Fulton, Wells and Fleming were all trapped leg before plumb in front.

Ealham prevented the hat-trick, but he soon fell chasing a wide one from Dean and it was left to Ward, playing in a different league to any other batsman in the match, to make sure that Kent retained the initiative. At the close of play, he had made his 95 off only 109 balls and struck 18 fours.

There should be more wickets for him today, when Hampshire will be left to make a total of around 500 to win. It is the ideal opportunity for Hayden to show that he, too, should not have been omitted from Australia's touring party.

## Boon fights rearguard action alone

BY DEREK HODGSON

**OLD TRAFFORD** (second day of four): Durham, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 305 runs behind Lancashire

DAVID BOON has given Lancashire the solidity of Ayers Rock; now he has to provide Durham with something of the durability of their cathedral, shoring up a batting order that too often seems eroded by the Lambton Worm.

That much, with a valiant, undefeated 85, he did on a day when all was against his team. Facing Lancashire's enormous total, Durham had to bat under day-long grey cloud that helped the ball swing, in poor light that led to three stoppages, and carrying the

THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 25 1997

## CRICKET

# Painful end to record contribution by Morris

By JOHN THICKNESSE

CARDIFF (second day of four): Warwickshire, with nine-second-innings wickets in hand, are 385 runs behind Glamorgan

HUGH MORRIS made his highest score in 16 years as a professional yesterday at Cardiff, an all-but-flawless 233 which was also his 50th first-class hundred. Rather than celebrating with an evening on the tiles, however, the 32-year-old left-hander was left with another type of headache — the kind a batsman gets when he loses sight of a ball from Allan Donald and takes a sharp blow to the skull.

Quick as the South Africa fast bowler is in a sense the most surprising feature of the accident was that a batsman of Morris's unblinking concentration could fail to pick him up in bright sunshine after batting for 50 minutes.

Turning his back, he was struck on the helmet behind the right ear, sinking to the ground but never losing consciousness. After attention from Dean Conway, the Glamorgan physiotherapist, Morris was taken from the field on a stretcher and driven to hospital for a precautionary X-ray.

Aside from Andy Moles being missed at short-leg off an easy chance when Warwickshire, 400 behind, began their long haul to try to save the game, Morris's injury was the sole blemish on Glamorgan's day.

Helped by Steve Watkin prolonging his night-watchman's stint till 12.30, they lost only one more wicket in 4½ hours, Morris and Adrian Dale cashing in on what had become a perfect pitch for bating in a stand of 242 made at 4.4 runs an over.

Dale's 106, off 171 balls, was his thirteenth hundred, an innings well suited to the match-position. Inevitably, he needed more luck than the solid, ever-watchful Morris is able to give two chances, at 46 overhead and quick to Osterler in the slips, and at 77 when Piper duffed an easy stumping.

Maynard eventually called a half-half an hour after Morris's retirement, leaving tired opponents ten overs to hold out. Wasim Khan played on in Darren Thomas's second over, but in Watkin's next Moles was badly missed by

Wayne Law, the substitute, two-handed at short-leg. Judged solely on figures, Glamorgan stagnated while Watkin was bating, he and Morris taking 90 minutes adding 54 to Wednesday's 195 for one. By denying Warwickshire the breakthrough they had to have to gain a fingerhold, however, the partnership was actually a prime example of the extent to which a resolute nightwatchman can influence a match.

It was obvious to both teams that the day was likely to be shaped by how many wickets Donald took in his first spell. In the event, even one eluded him. With a blustery south-westerly behind him, the great South African bowled seven rapid overs — and Watkin bore the brunt of them. 27 balls compared with Morris's 15. Watkin was occasionally beaten, playing and missing six times, mostly to balls that whistled past chest-high. Far from backing out of line, though, the lanky former England seamer's body-language left little doubt he was enjoying every minute.

It was a lovely spell to watch by Donald. No fast bowler since Holding has covered the ground so gracefully or rhythmically. Tidy, too — only four singles and a two. But the nearest he came to taking the wicket Warwickshire needed came when Morris stabbed down only just in time on a round-the-wicket yorker — Donald's usual line to him.

Watkin's vocal support was ceaseless. But even one fell quiet when, early in the second hour, Watkin drove Giles low to Small at backward point, though, Glamorgan's consolidation was complete. Morris and Dale acknowledging as much by blazing 67 off the last 11 overs of the morning. That Morris needed 60 more balls for his second 50 than his first, 155 compared with 95, was testimony to his single-mindedness and patience. Had he won the caps his qualities deserved, England's Test record in the 1990s could only read better than it does.

Watkin stuck around long enough to see Morris past his hundred, batting 79 balls for his 18. By the time he drove Giles low to Small at backward point, though, Glamorgan's consolidation was complete. Morris and Dale acknowledging as much by blazing 67 off the last 11 overs of the morning. That Morris needed 60 more balls for his second 50 than his first, 155 compared with 95, was testimony to his single-mindedness and patience. Had he won the caps his qualities deserved, England's Test record in the 1990s could only read better than it does.



Penney, at silly point, wisely takes avoiding action as Morris opens his shoulders during his innings of 233

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

THE OVAL (second day of four): Surrey, with three second-innings wickets in hand, are 291 runs behind Somerset

ON THE evidence of the first two days of this match, Surrey are charlatans. After Somerset had taken their first innings to 463 — 80 of them in extras, a world record — they ripped out the heart of Surrey's much-vaunted bating after tea to give themselves an excellent chance of victory.

In these early weeks of summer there will be much talk of young men with reputations to make. But there is still room in the game for the

player whose hopes of promotion evaporated some time ago, and yet retains his professional pride. Yesterday, Graham Rose stood up for his kind.

There was a time, not so long ago, when Rose was considered for England's one-day team, as a clean-striking batsman who could turn his arm over. He is now 33, and finds himself bating at No 8, two places lower than he might like, so his value to Somerset lies at least as much in his bowling.

When bowler, Somerset's new captain, switched him to the pavilion end after tea, he responded immediately by taking the wickets of Thorpe, Donald's usual line to him.

Stewart and Hollis outside nine balls without conceding a run. He swung the ball both ways, defeating the England pair with balls that came into them, and surprising Hollis with a short ball that the Surrey captain could only jab involuntarily back to the bowler.

Within the space of two overs, Rose changed the shape of the game. Surrey had started their innings at a fair old lick, assisted by Shine, who seemed determined to show everybody what an ordinary bowler he is. Bicknell, feasting on the choicer morsels, put salt and pepper on his plate and savoured five successive boundaries.

Steve Herzberg, an off spinner of slender means, ended the opening stand with his first ball, a full toss that Bicknell belted back to him, and then had Buccher dumped. It was a good day for Herzberg, a 23-year-old Anglo-Australian, who begins his third career in England after gracing the second teams of Worcester and Kent.

He had earlier shared a ninth-wicket stand of 109 with Harden, finishing one run short of his best score in first-class cricket. Harden, employing a runner after twisting his ankle on the first day, batted 12 minutes short of eight hours for his unbeaten 136.

## Rose rips out Surrey's faint heart

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Steve Herzberg, an off spinner of slender means, ended the opening stand with his first ball, a full toss that Bicknell belted back to him, and then had Buccher dumped. It was a good day for Herzberg, a 23-year-old Anglo-Australian, who begins his third career in England after gracing the second teams of Worcester and Kent.

He had earlier shared a ninth-wicket stand of 109 with Harden, finishing one run short of his best score in first-class cricket. Harden, employing a runner after twisting his ankle on the first day, batted 12 minutes short of eight hours for his unbeaten 136.

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# Turf experience a cut above others

The Chesterfield goalkeeper, Billy Mercer, may be a popular figure with Cup watchers at the moment, yet his name is mud with the groundsman at Brentford's Griffin Park. As I learnt yesterday, at the unromantically-titled "Turf Experience II" at Wembley Stadium, goalkeepers have a bad habit of making a mid-point line on the pitch with their boots — or scoring, you might light-heartedly call it (so long as a proud pitch-manager wasn't in ear-shot). "It's an infringement, but they do it anyway," the groundsman sighs, fatalistically.

Anyway, that colossus Mercer scored at Brentford and, despite all his other successes, he will not be forgiven. "What can you do about the mark?" I ask the groundsman, naively. "Fill it in?" "Well," he says, "I'd rather fill him in, to be honest."

A "turf experience" is not



Truss makes the most of a close encounter with Wembley's hallowed turf and finds it in excellent shape

something I've ever had before. Asked in what profession "spiking", "cutting up" and "bobbling" might be specialist vocabulary, I'd have guessed with confidence hairdressing or peddling drugs. But more than 100 blokes turned up at Wembley yesterday morning to hear talks on such vital subjects as "Rootzone Water Management for Uniform Turf Surfaces", and every single one of them knew more about grass than I'll ever know about anything.

"Do you cut the grass at home, or do you hate it?" I ask Rob McCullagh, the man with the top job at Wembley Stadium. With obvious pleasure, he rubs his hands. "Neither," he says. "I live in a flat."

These are the people who watch vital matches but never raise their gaze from the level of the grass. They yell "Get him off" seemingly out of context. These are men (oh yes) who can tell a divot from a hole in the ground. To them the "rootzone" does not mean the position in which Brighton and Hove Albion now find themselves. When the speaker from the Sports Turf Research Institute paints a futuristic picture of multipurpose sports stadiums, with pitches grown in the car park and rolled up and brought inside only as required, I am as round-eyed as anybody.

They already have a port-

able pitch developed on this principle at Arnhem, apparently — but in my opinion it's a disaster waiting to happen. One day they will roll it up, then count all the players, and discover that several of them are missing, like that old joke about the budget and the carpet.

We tend to forget how unnatural it is to grow a field in the middle of a football stadium. But it's extremely weird, really, which is why the sight of misplaced grass is probably the most vivid aspect of one's first trips to live football. A friend who loathed *Fever Pitch* (the movie, not the book) nevertheless applauded the scene when young Paul emerges from tunnel and steps, and sees the grass for the first time. What's that doing in here? In the midst of all the mundane concrete, it is like finding a waterfall in a multi-storey car park.

It's very green; it's very flat; it's very large and, if you're lucky, it's got patterns on it. At Wembley — where the turf has

of course the extra distinction of being hallowed (hello, turf!) — it's generally mown in a criss-cross pattern, although McCullagh, the nice, flat-dwelling groundsman, has a hankering after diamonds as well.

There appear to be no bad boys of pitch management. I was hoping for tales of cowboys who spray green paint and hope for the best, or patch up goalmouths with敷具 (from Allied Carpets). But it doesn't happen.

"What happened to Astrout?" is a question that simply betrays my age and falls flat, like refunding people of their Zappata moustaches. On artificial grass, I suspect, a sliding tackle might result in spectacular friction-ignition — a picture once imagined, never forgotten. "Brave horizontal tackle from Batty," Motson says on the telly. "But ooh look, it's hap-

pened again! His bum's on fire!"

Motson's flow is good; finding flow is bad. It's amazing what you can pick up about effective watering techniques in a mere half-day, although one cannot forget that the Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute has reached volume 72, so presumably there's a lot more to it than that. Meanwhile, it is worth knowing that, while a "Creeping Bent" may sound like one of Sherlock Holmes's less successful disguises, it is in fact a species of grass. On the Wembley pitch, there's a combination of ryegrass which looks in excellent nick to me. But then, I always applaud well-cut grass, having grown up in a household in which my father *not* cutting the grass was a domestic non-cooperation issue of disproportionate significance.

"Do you ever water the grass just to watch the players fall over?" I ask the Brentford man. Tiredness is setting in, perhaps: I'm clutching at well, grass. But it's nice to think of these guys having a bit of fun sometimes. Why else would the chap at Sunderland have mown the pitch at Roker Park in concentric circles for the Middlesbrough match? Either he wanted the visitors to suffer vertigo, or it was pure *joue de ville* for the sake of the cameras, a little like writing "Hello Mum" with his lawnmower.

"So this profession — would you call it a level playing field? I keep wanting to ask, but somehow could never get up the nerve. But I know one thing: I'll always take the wormeats-eye-view of the football pitch in future. And, when a goalkeeper is beaten by a random bounce caused by his own infringement, I shall make like an aggrieved groundsman and say 'Serves you right.'

LYNNE TRUSS

## BOXING

### Hamed's taunts go unheard

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

Answers from page 43

#### DUBBS

(a) A process developed in the 1920s from the early "Thermal Crackers". In it crude oil is heated in tubes lining a furnace, and "cracks" to produce what today would be classed as low-grade motor spirit. Today some use is made of equipment with milder conditions to reduce viscosity of fuel oils, thus saving the use of Diesel oil as a diluent. Also with severe conditions to produce coke for the manufacture of electrodes.

#### CUNIBERTI

(c) Vittorio Cuniberti (1854-1913) was one of a school of Italian naval architects who had a profound effect on all warship design, even including the British Dreadnought. He argued that: "Fast ships are an absolute necessity; slow ships, however powerful, have everything to lose." The first pure Cuniberti ship, *Vittorio Emanuele*, laid down in 1901, first of a class of four, had two 12-inch guns plus 12 8-inch, all on a displacement of under 13,000 tons. Her speed of 21 knots was 4 knots faster than any foreign ship.

#### LOOSE LINER

(c) The inner tube of a barrel, carrying the rifling on its inside face. It may be removed and replaced without the need to dismantle the barrel. The term may also apply to the fitting of a tube to a gun of greater calibre, the 3.7 inch Mark 6 AA gun being an example.

#### WANKEL

(c) An engine invented and developed by Frederick Wankel (1902-1988). A rotary internal combustion engine. Essentially a triangular body on an eccentrically pivoted shaft, with three corners touching the walls of the surround, thus forming three consecutive diameters varying in volume as it turns. Despite its simplicity of design, construction and freedom from variation, the Wankel engine has remained more of a curiosity than a practical piece of equipment in wide use.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE  
1... Qa7! Wins a further piece, as if 2 Rg7 Rg1+ mating.

trainer, who has been with him since he was six, said: "He is ready to go. We have been training for eight weeks and he is confident he will be the winner on the night."

For the past eight weeks Ibinson and Hardy have been rehearsing secret moves that they have devised after studying Hamed on video tape. "We

have been sparring with a Naz clone," Ibinson said; but he refused to reveal who that man might be.

It is just as well that nothing secret was in progress yesterday, for Hamed made an impromptu visit to the gym. "I ain't spying on you," Hamed said, "but show me what you've got. I am not impressed. You will have to hit harder than that."

Hamed's training quickly pattered out, but he said that he was about to finish anyway. If Hamed's visit was a stunt to upset Hardy, it failed.

Back at Winchcombe, Hamed was, as usual, keener to hand out an earbashing than bashing. "From what I saw, I've got nothing to worry about," he said. "He has nothing to beat me with. It will be the first or the second [round] — depends on how I feel on the night."

Hamed: impromptu visit

## Garden Party: Tonight 8.00

Down to earth advice with horticultural hot-shots



## TELEVISION CHOICE

### Testing the leisure market

#### Weekend Watchdog

BBC1, 7.00pm

The latest of several offspring of the consumer show is a Friday edition devoted, appropriately, to the leisure field. Some of the areas, such as package holidays, have been well covered on the parent programme. But the agenda also includes complaints against high street shops, cinemas, restaurants, pubs, garden centres, amusement parks and sports venues. All of which should provide plenty of material for the tested and Kiernanised team of Anne Robinson and the man whose first name looks like a misspelling, Johnathan Mailand. There is more emphasis than before on live phone lines and the forthright Robinson will be challenging errant companies to mend their ways within a 30-minute deadline. *Weekend Watchdog* is also making what could be a rash promise to use its own plane to fly home holidaymakers who are having a rotten time.

#### A Golfer's Travels With Peter Alliss

BBC2, 8.00pm

Alliss's armchair golfing chat show comes from Spain host this year of the Ryder Cup and synonymous with Seve Ballesteros. Sadly there is no Ballesteros in the film. Instead Alliss talks to James Oates, owner of the Valderrama course where the Ryder Cup will be played, and plays a couple of holes on the "Augusta of Europe". From there it is off to Rio Tinto, a gravel course (you bring your own matting) which is not the Augusta of anywhere but is of interest as the first place where golf was played in Spain. It was imported by Scottish miners. Non-golfers who have read so far and feel the programme is not for them may be pleased to know that Alliss's other guest is Steven Redgrave. This is the cue for yet another inquest on Britain's awful showing (Redgrave and partner excepted) in the Olympics.

#### Garden Party

Channel 4, 9.30pm

When *Garden Party* was first aired last year it tended only to make existing gardening programmes look all the more slick and professional. The idea of assembling a trio of experts to visit gardens and dispense advice.



Anne Robinson investigates (BBC1, 7.00)

seen sound enough, not least because for half a century it has been the basis of *Gardener's Question Time* on radio. But despite having the advantage that it could show what it was talking about, the programme flowed far less well than Radio 4's perennial. While the new series is not available for previewing, it is a fair bet that lessons have been learnt. Check for yourself as Tom Barber, once again in the anchor role, takes fellow horticulturalists David Jones and Carol Klein to the spring gardens of Docton Mill in Devon.

#### Gardener's World

BBC2, 8.30pm

Meanwhile, over at the BBC's gardening show, Bob Flowerdew is in trouble. It all stems from his infamous item last year about growing potatoes in towed-over old car tyres. Viewers seem either to have dismissed the idea with scorn or to have tried it and found it wanting. Flowerdew does his best to look unabashed. He suggests where unsuccessful growers may have gone wrong and demonstrates his continued faith in the theory by planting even more varieties in even more towers. You cannot imagine Helen Yemm using old car tyres. *Yemm* was the slightly schoolmarmish host of *Gardening From Scratch*. Having told other gardeners what to do, she now shows us her garden. Meanwhile, Alan Titchmarsh dispenses cheery wisdom on growing fruit in a small space and keeping cats off flowerbeds.

Peter Waymark

#### RADIO CHOICE

##### The Front

Radio 4, 3.50pm

A man walking down the high street at Lewes in Sussex is dressed as a zebra. He attracts little attention and is certainly not regarded as odd. The reason is that it is November 5, when Lewes has a carnival. On any other day of the year, the man would attract curious glances and cause discomfort among other pedestrians. The essence of this new series is the relationship between people and pretence: how we tend to assume certain protective positions for certain situations, at school, at work and at home. Pretence runs deep, it goes back to the apes and is to be seen in the behaviour of wounded animals, which will take elaborate measures to give the impression they are not wounded. Sara Parker explores the phenomenon.

##### RADIO 1

7.00am: Kevin Greening 8.00 Simon Mayo 8.00 Jo Whaley 8.00 Nick Campion 8.00 Mark Goodier 8.15 Newbeat 8.30 Pete Tong — Essential Selection 10.00 London Music Week 1.00 In the Jungle 12.00 Radio 1 Rap Show with Tim Westwood 3.00am Charlie Jordan

##### RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 8.00 Wake Up to Wogan 10.00 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30 Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Durn 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night from the North Wales Teesside, Landmarks with the BBC Concert Orchestra under Rudolf Dunkl 9.15 Last Orders 9.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 Sheridan Morley 10.30 Charles Nelson

##### RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mar 2.00pm鲁鲁 on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.20 Friday Sport with John Murray. Football, Bolters, Wanderers v Charlton Athletic, Norwich City v Manchester City and Birmingham City v Oxford United 10.00 Brian Hayes's Election Night 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night

##### TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy War 7.00 Paul Ross 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Loraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Drivetime with Peter Nooley 7.00 Moz Dee's Sportszone 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Ian Collins

#### From the Canyons to the Stars

Radio 3, 7.30pm

Oliver Messiaen is regarded as the most significant French composer of the post-war era and *Des Canyons aux Étoiles (From the Canyons to the Stars)* is his most towering and wide-ranging composition, played tonight by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra as part of Radio 3's *Soundings* season. Messiaen was inspired to write the piece during a visit to Utah in the 1970s. It is in 14 short movements split into three sections, and it makes formidable use of woodwind, brass and percussion to paint a musical picture of creation and contemplation. The principal soloists tonight are Roll Hind (piano), David Flack (horn) and Heather Corbett and David Lyons (percussion).

Peter Barnard

#### WORLD SERVICE

4.00am Mark Griffiths 7.00 Mike Read 9.00 Hall of Fame Hour 10.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Election '97 1.00pm Concerto 3.00 Jamie Clegg 7.00 Newsnight 7.30 Sonata 8.00 Concerti Weber (Overture to Oberon); Schubert (Nocturne for Piano, Violin and Cello in E flat) 10.00 Michael Mepkin 10.00 Concerto (1)

#### CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 7.00 Pete Read 9.00 Hall of Fame Hour 10.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Election '97 1.00pm Concerto 3.00 Jamie Clegg 7.00 Newsnight 7.30 Sonata 8.00 Concerti Weber (Overture to Oberon); Schubert (Nocturne for Piano, Violin and Cello in E flat) 10.00 Michael Mepkin 10.00 Concerto (1)

#### VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jon's Breakfast Experience 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Horne 7.00 Paul Coyle (FM) 4.00 Drivetime with Peter Nooley 10.00 Alan Freeman 12.00 Mark Forster 2.00am Howard Pearce

#### RADIO 3

5.15 In Tune, with Andrew Green Includes Schubert, transcriber Liszt (Das Wunder); Chabrier (España); Rachmaninov (Vocalises)

7.30 From the Canyons to the Stars. See Choice. Includes the Tramway Theatre in Glasgow. Olivier Messiaen's *Des Canyons aux Étoiles*. Conductor Marlyn Braddock

9.15 Sicilian Voices. In the last of five programmes exploring the life, history and literature of Sicily, Joe Farrell looks at Sicilian writers such as Leonardo Sciascia

9.35 Home to a Parrot. Sandro Ivo Bartoli, piano, and Maria Malagò, violin. Includes images of a parrot, an elephant and an idiot. Plus a selection from Malipiero's Italian contemporaries. Includes Respighi (Prélude à l'heure d'été)

10.00 Hear and Now. Sarah Walker talks to clarinetist Andrew Sparling who features in both of tonight's Top Trumpet Ensembles. James Clarke (Trio); Lazarus Ensemble; Roger Redgate (+R); Michael Finlay (WAM); James McLean (Imane); James Ernes (You Done Tom Your Playhouse Down); Jane Clarke (Entremont); Richard Barnes (Mai Remans); Ensemble Howard Skpton (Colombe)

11.30 Composers of the Week: Lord Armstrong of Lafford. Includes selections from Byrd, Tallis, Dowland, Purcell, Blow, Purcell, and others. Includes the first performance of the first complete recording of the complete works of the English composer

12.30 Everything but the Kitchen Sink. Russell Davies continues the six-part series exploring the life and work of the legendary saxophonist Sidney Bechet (3/6) (r

# Dishing the dirt on a harmless obsession

**T**agh Amirani is a filmmaker with a very odd line in questioning. "How long have you been in love?" he asked brightly, a few minutes into last night's *Mad About Machines* (Channel 4). It was a curious question to ask for three reasons. The first being that he hadn't known David and Barbara long; the second, that Barbara had just dropped a major clue by explaining that she met David at Bolton's Palais de Danse 26 years ago. And the third? The programme was supposed to be about vacuum cleaners.

Still, the Cassons had not got to run Accrington's premier vacuum repair business without knowing a thing or two. "Well, we've been married for 26 years," replied Barbara, fixing Amirani with a look that would make an extension lead recoil at five paces. David, however, hoping perhaps that what chimneys did for Fred

Dibnah, vacuum cleaners would do him played along: "For two weeks... 26 years ago."

This time it was his turn to be on the receiving end of that look — it works for husbands, too. He was back in that messy repair shop in two shades of the shade of *Nic Vac*. For those who have stuck with this gently enjoyable series, Amirani's method of film-making has long been apparent. He is far more interested in the people than he is in the machines.

It's a laudable failing, but at times he seems to be trying far too hard to turn his subjects into eccentrics. His questioning goes way beyond the normal line of prompting from behind the camera.

If he is going to so control the content of his film by asking extraordinary questions such as "What will happen to Vac Services after you have gone?", he needs to be in front of the camera alongside his

subject. That way we can get the measure of both of them.

And what is about death, anyway? He's obsessed with it. You might think the discovery that after the passing of Vac Services, "people will have to buy new" would be enough for any filmmaker. But not for Amirani. "Does that make you sad?" No.

Cut? Move on? Not a bit of it: "Is there no way you can make Vac Services live on after you?" David paused, sighed and thought of Dibnah: "No," he said solemnly. "I'd like it to die with me." At last, our man was happy.

With that we were off to Newlyn, heart of the Cornish fishing industry. Must be another party political broadcast, I thought — you can't move for politicians and battle ships in Newlyn at the moment. "Hello, I'm Sophie Grigson," said a woman who looked on the

cusp between the Greens and the Lib Dems. "Aren't made up my mind yet, slyng 'er 'ook," said a burly fisherman. Actually, that last bit's not true. "Come and have a look at my salt cod," he said. As Grigson had just gushingly told us that "salt cod is no longer a necessity, it's a luxury," she did as she was bid. Part two of *Taste of the Times* (Channel 4) was underway. What followed was the fascinat-

## REVIEW

Matthew Bond



ing story of surely one of the most pointless ingredients known to modern, refrigerator-friendly man. First take your cod (did you know the best cod is gutted alive?) — quite put me off knight's fish supper! then cover it in salt, which draws the water out of it and preserves it. Then hang it on a hook while you hibernate for the winter.

When you awake and fancy a bit of fish, soak the salt cod in fresh water, which washes away the salt and puts back the water. Result: something that looks remarkably like readily available fresh cod. Grigson, however, was at pains to stress that the whole thing was not a monumental waste of time: "It's not like fresh cod at all."

The difference, she thought, was akin to that between plums and prunes, a comparison which, for somebody who's never seen the point of dried fruit either, was not entirely helpful. She fairly gallops

through the recipes, too. If you were to slow down a bit, Sophie, I might vote for you.

A week or so ago, *The Times* carried a striking picture of the soon-to-be renamed *Sea Empress* nearing the end of a £22 million refit in Belfast. The picture served as a powerful reminder that what had been a disaster for the Pembrokeshire coast had actually been very good news for the ship-repairers of Harland and Wolff. Last night's *Horizon* (BBC2) modified the picture further still by arguing — as its title *A Perfect Oil Spill* suggested — that the grounding of the *Sea Empress* barely counted as a disaster at all.

Lessons had been learnt from all the major oil disasters, we were told. From the *Torrey Canyon* we learnt that you cannot burn off crude oil by bombing with napalm. Nor is scraping off the top layer of a beach, as the French did

after the Amoco *Cadiz*, a good idea (it gets rid of the oil all right, but it destroys the eco-system of the beach). Nor is using equally damaging pressure hoses, as they did in Alaska after the *Exxon Valdez*. Those gallant Pembrokeshire men with their little shovels and scrapers were doing exactly the right thing, following the latest, softly-softly approach that aims to work with nature rather than against her.

Softly-softly, however, does not mean low-tech nor a happy ending for everybody. Thousands of gallons of dispersants were used, hydrocarbon-munching bacteria were helped along by chemical fertilisers.

And then, following a mass, and very messy, post-mortem, a growing consensus emerged: that the best thing to do with oiled seabirds was not to clean them but pur them out of their misery. Didn't sound perfect to me.

6.00am Business Breakfast (1042)	
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (7037956)	
9.05 Election Call The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, answers viewers' questions (T) (8078835)	
10.00 Style Challenge (70019)	
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (51308)	
11.00 News (T) regional news and weather (4235659)	
11.05 The Really Useful Show (T) (9791090)	
11.35 Snooker: World Championship	
Dougie Donnelly introduces early coverage from day seven; the second round matches, at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre (9602747)	
12.35pm Good Living (9315767)	
1.00 News (T) and weather (19496)	
1.30 Regional News (T) (5045651)	
1.45 Neighbours (T) (7184867)	
2.10 Snooker: World Championship	
Live coverage as round two continues. Coverage continues on BBC2 (4110898)	
3.30 Mice and Men (9325452) 3.35 Noddy (T) (6780338) 3.45 Bogger and Baigel (T) (6766274) 4.00 Act Ventura. Pet Detective (T) (6359583) 4.25 Clarissa Explains It All (T) (8708922) 4.50 Newsround Election Special (T) (1224748) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (8708877)	
5.35 Neighbours (T) (15125)	
6.00 News (T) and weather (6322)	
6.30 Regional News (T) (958800)	
6.55 PEB by the SNP (795751)	
7.00 <b>Weekend Watchdog</b> A look at Britain's leisure industry (T) (1816)	
7.30 Top of the Pops Rundown of the latest hits, including new videos, pre-chart sounds and live performances (T) (496)	
8.00 Porridge Fletch gives his new cell-mate a less than welcoming reception. With Ronnie Barker, Maurice Denham and Richard Beckinsale (T) (79444)	
8.30 A Question of Sport: David Coleman puts the questions to team captains Ally McCoist and John Parrott and their guests: England cricket captain Mike Atherton, Three-Day-Eventer Karen Dixon, Leicester fly-half Joel Stanley and snooker's European Open champion John Higgins (T) (6699)	
9.00 News (T) and weather (370922)	
9.50 Election Broadcast: Conservative (T) (781729)	
10.00 Terminator II: Judgment Day (1991) with Arnold Schwarzenegger, Linda Hamilton and Edward Furlong. The cyborg returns this time setting out to protect the future saviour of the human race from a rival assassin with incredible powers. The version features scenes from the director's cut, previously unshown in Britain. Directed by James Cameron (T) (222338)	
12.20 Young Billy Young (1989) with Robert Mitchum, Angie Dickinson, Robert Walker, Jr and David Carradine. A young and impressionable gun man is helped through a series of world-class scenarios by a mysterious stranger intent on avenging the brutal murder of his son. Directed by Burt Kennedy (5937510)	
1.45pm-1.50 Weather (5827539)	
<b>VideoPlus+</b> and the Video PlusCodes The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to record your video recorder with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ ("), PlusCode ("") and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.	



Peter Alliss visits Spain (8.00pm)

8.00 <b>At Home</b> A Golfer's Travels with Peter Alliss Peter heads to southern Spain (T) (8108)
8.30 <b>Gardeners' World</b> Cultivating fruit in a small garden and keeping cats off flowerbeds (T) (4011)
9.00 <b>Have I Got News for You?</b> Current affairs comedy quiz, hosted by Angus Deayton with team captains Ian Hislop and Paul Merton. The guests are Hugh Dennis and Will Self (6533)
9.30 <b>Sunnydale</b> Farm Ray's conscience suffers a pounding when Leitchworth offers him cash to help woodland protectors of his land. Rural sitcom, with Phil Daniels, Mark Addy, Betty Goddard and Matt Lucas (T) (97699)
10.00 <b>Rab C. Nesbitt</b> (T) (34632)
10.30 <b>Election Broadcast:</b> Conservative Party (T) (15429)
10.35 <b>Newswatch</b> (957816)
11.30 <b>Election Broadcast:</b> BNP (268019)
11.35 <b>Snooker</b> (614019)
12.15 <b>This Life</b> (T) (119371) 1.05 <b>Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</b> (1931, b/w) Fredric March gives an Oscar-winning performance as the Victorian doctor who meddles with science and turns into a vicious monster compelled to kill and destroy. Also with Miriam Hopkins. Rouben Mamoulian directs (1930-88)
1.00 Coronation Street (T) (15152)
1.30 <b>Wednesday</b> A look at Britain's leisure industry (T) (1816)
2.00 Top of the Pops Rundown of the latest hits, including new videos, pre-chart sounds and live performances (T) (496)
2.30 <b>Porridge</b> Fletch gives his new cell-mate a less than welcoming reception. With Ronnie Barker, Maurice Denham and Richard Beckinsale (T) (79444)
3.00 <b>Young Billy Young</b> (1989) with Robert Mitchum, Angie Dickinson, Robert Walker, Jr and David Carradine. A young and impressionable gun man is helped through a series of world-class scenarios by a mysterious stranger intent on avenging the brutal murder of his son. Directed by Burt Kennedy (5937510)
3.30 <b>Terminator II: Judgment Day</b> (1991) with Arnold Schwarzenegger, Linda Hamilton and Edward Furlong. The cyborg returns this time setting out to protect the future saviour of the human race from a rival assassin with incredible powers. The version features scenes from the director's cut, previously unshown in Britain. Directed by James Cameron (T) (222338)
4.00 <b>Blue Peter</b> (5827539)
4.30 <b>News at Ten</b> (T) (119371)
5.00 <b>Rediffusion</b> (T) (119371)
5.30 <b>Weather</b> (5458634)

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### For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

#### SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (210109) 9.00 *Reaper* (74522) 10.00 *Another World* (33008) 11.00 *Days of Our Lives* (33054) 12.00 *Open Winter* (28226) 1.00 *Geno* (1127167) 1.35 *Heathen* (28226) 2.00 *Twenty Years On* (28226) 2.30 *The Phantom of the Opera* (1988) 2.50 *Men for Each Other* (1971) 3.00 *Young Billy Young* (1989) 3.30 *Blue Peter* (T) (15125)

#### SKY 2

7.00pm *Beverly Hills 90210* (133458) 8.00 *Melrose Place* (134206) 9.00 *Days of Our Lives* (33054) 10.00 *Reaper* (74522) 10.30 *Another World* (33008) 11.00 *Days of Our Lives* (33054) 12.00 *Open Winter* (28226) 1.00 *Geno* (1127167) 1.35 *Heathen* (28226) 2.00 *Twenty Years On* (28226) 2.30 *The Phantom of the Opera* (1988) 2.50 *Men for Each Other* (1971) 3.00 *Young Billy Young* (1989) 3.30 *Blue Peter* (T) (15125)

#### SKY MOVIES

7.00pm *Getting Even with Dad* (1994) 8.00 *The Blue Bird* (1976) 8.30 *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (1966) 9.00 *Grease* (1978) 9.30 *Grease 2* (1980) 10.00 *The Dark Knight Returns* (1989) 10.30 *Robin Hood Prince of Thieves* (1991) 11.00 *Seven* (1970) 11.30 *Death Wish III* (1985) 12.00 *Death Wish IV* (1987) 12.30 *Death Wish V* (1989) 1.00 *Death Wish VI* (1990) 1.30 *Death Wish VII* (1991) 2.00 *Death Wish VIII* (1992) 2.30 *Death Wish IX* (1993) 3.00 *Death Wish X* (1994) 3.30 *Death Wish XI* (1995) 4.00 *Death Wish XII* (1996) 4.30 *Death Wish XIII* (1997) 5.00 *Death Wish XIV* (1998) 5.30 *Death Wish XV* (1999) 6.00 *Death Wish XVI* (2000) 6.30 *Death Wish XVII* (2001) 7.00 *Death Wish XVIII* (2002) 7.30 *Death Wish XIX* (2003) 8.00 *Death Wish XX* (2004)

#### THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am *Dark Waters* (1994) 6.30 *The Christmas Coat* (1993) 6.50 *Three Men and a Baby* (1993) 7.00 *Grease* (1978) 7.30 *Grease 2* (1980) 7.50 *Grease 3* (1986) 8.00 *Grease 4* (1990) 8.30 *Grease 5* (1995) 8.50 *Grease 6* (1998) 9.00 *Grease 7* (1999) 9.30 *Grease 8* (2000) 10.00 *Grease 9* (2001) 10.30 *Grease 10* (2002) 11.00 *Grease 11* (2003) 11.30 *Grease 12* (2004) 12.00 *Grease 13* (2005) 12.30 *Grease 14* (2006) 1.00 *Grease 15* (2007) 1.30 *Grease 16* (2008) 2.00 *Grease 17* (2009) 2.30 *Grease 18* (2010) 3.00 *Grease 19* (2011) 3.30 *Grease 20* (2012) 4.00 *Grease 21* (2013) 4.30 *Grease 22* (2014) 5.00 *Grease 23* (2015)

